For meaning of this No. see Page iii. of cover.

JOHN BULL

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The world is a bundle of hay;
Mankind are the asses who pull;
Each tugs it a different way,
And the greatest of all is John Bull

—BYRON.

Edited by
HORATIO BOTTOMLEY.

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JOHN BULL.

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All editorial enquiries MUST BE MADE BY LETTER.

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THE WORLD, THE FLESH, AND THE DEVIL.

[*The Editor discourses upon passing events and topics of the day.*]

At the time of going to press with this page, "Dr." Crippen is still at large. Even if he should be discovered, an enormous amount of money and labour will have been wasted—all because the police failed to keep watch upon his movements after they had the best of reasons for grave suspicions; after he had admitted to them that his story about Mrs. Crippen's death (and all the rest of it) was untrue! And yet, when we directed the attention of the Home Office to this culpable neglect of duty, we were asked to believe that any explanation at this stage would not be in the interests of justice! Official bluff and humbug—for the purpose of shielding the police from blame for its clumsy and idiotic blunder. And some members laughed when we suggested that the force might be better occupied in watching the movements of suspected murderers than in looking out for juvenile smokers!

We congratulate Mr. Churchill upon his contemplated reforms in our prison and penal systems. It now only remains for him to place the coping stone upon his term of office by modifying the death penalty.

The fact that Lord Kitchener remains outside the Committee of Defence is a striking illustration of the way in which the affairs of the State are managed in this country. When Lord Kitchener was offered the Mediterranean command it included a seat on the Committee. It is true that if he had accepted the command he would have been out of England most of the year, and his attendance at the meetings of the Committee must have been few and far between. None the less, he would have been a member of it. But holding, with the Duke of Connaught, that the Mediterranean command is a costly folly, he declined it, and remains at home. By common consent he is the foremost soldier still on the Active List. But the Government will not have him!

Mr. Haldane's attitude is intelligible enough. A philosopher, put at the head of the Army, without rhyme or reason, at the time when it needed a Louvois to straighten things out, he finds that at least in one direction—the Territorial Army—he is face to face with failure. Pressed in the House of Lords the other night his deputy, Lord Lucas, was compelled to admit that of the 17,000 men whose time expired last year, only 1,600 re-engaged, whilst his *fidus Achates*, Lord Esher, was of the opinion that the 275,000, which is the present strength of the territorial troops, is likely to be the maximum that can be raised, though it is only the other day that Mr. Haldane was telling us that not only would the recruiting give him the 315,000 which represents the full establishment, but men were so anxious to join that he was thinking of raising the maximum to half a million. The Territorial Army is a huge fraud.

If Lord Kitchener were on the Committee of Defence, or at the War Office, there would be the devil to pay; but Mr. Haldane likes a quiet life, and so for this reason and for that, our one great military organiser is to rust, and the Army Council is to be left undisturbed, to muddle and job, and job and muddle, in a way which should delight every enemy of our country.

And what about that War Office corruption to which we refer on another page? What short work Lord Kitchener would have made of it! Just imagine referring the matter to a barrister! We really must stir things up a bit on the adjournment of the House.

Apropos our recent comments upon the appointment to a post in connection with the Labour Exchanges of Major Murray, a relative of Sir George Murray, Permanent Secretary to the Treasury, a correspondent tells us that by the elevation of Mr. W. G. Lewis to a place on the Board of Customs and Excise, Mr. E. C. Cunningham, one of the assistant secretaries of the department, has been promoted to a joint secretaryship with a salary of £1,200 a year, being an immediate rise of £350. So far as service goes, the new secretary is quite a junior, having served for fourteen years only. His age is 37, and he has had little practical experience of service. His predecessor, on the contrary, had 43 years' service before he was appointed. It is rumoured that Mr. Cunningham was also fortunate enough to choose Sir Geo. Murray for a relative.

How is it that street-hawkers can sell fine ripe strawberries at 2d. a pound when inferior fruit costs six or nine times that sum at the Stores? No doubt many people are put off by visions of dirty hands, but how can they guarantee the immaculate cleanliness of people who pick for the shops? Evidently someone makes an excessive profit.

The President of the Board of Trade appears very reluctant to exercise the powers of his department, in connection with the affairs of the Law Guarantee Trust. We are doing our best, however, to feed him with sufficient facts to induce him to move, but, meantime, we venture to wonder what would have happened if the manager of the Company had been, say, Mr. E. T. Hooley!

There is a Middlesbrough Alderman who is offering good money for bad goods; Mr. Mattison to wit. "It being now generally recognised that the house fly conveys and distributes disease," he will pay one penny for every 50 dead flies, or one penny per dozen dead blue-bottles, delivered at the Sanitary Office, Municipal Buildings, up to August 31st of the year current. Looks to us as if the worthy alderman wanted to squander half-a-crown.

The secretary of a Sabbatarian Society has been sending out a circular to the shareholders of a London restaurant company urging them to write to the chairman and directors not to take so fatal a step as that of ruining the company by opening the establishments on Sunday. "Such Sunday trading helped to ruin the British Tea Table Company," says the secretary of the Sabbatarians; but anybody who believes that yarn will believe anything. It is difficult for a stranger in London to get anything to eat on Sundays unless he goes into a public-house (when open). We hold, however, that if the waitresses work on Sundays they should be compensated by a full holiday on some other day of the week. Sunday opening for the mere purpose of grinding extra dividends out of shop-girls already working long hours six days a week is not by any means according to our book. The shareholder who encloses the Sabbatarian circular is a broad-minded clergyman; and, as on this point his view is ours, we trust he will make it his business to see that the company's waitresses do get adequate compensation in wages or rest for their extra day's labour. As for the talk in the circular about breaking the Divine law, Sunday is theologically no more the Lord's Day—indeed it is less the Lord's Day—than Saturday, which is the traditional Sabbath. And on Saturday everybody works—except, of course, the Jews and judges.

Extract from the Financial Statement of the Newcastle Temperance Society: "Annual subscriptions, £65 6s.; Secretary's salary, £65." A clear profit to "the cause," of six shillings!

Here is a story of neighbours from Brighton, in the words of the lady who tells it to us. "... I have only been resident here for five weeks (late of London) and on my arrival I had to get my key from these people (Wesleyans and Sunday School teachers), who after a second or two began to scandalise their neighbour the other side of them, saying, with many other things, that the man was most Godless because he never entered a place of worship but preferred to take his wife and children for a row on Sundays, and it was setting a bad example to their children. Annoyed, I told them I thought the man was to be admired in spending his leisure to give pleasure to wife and children. The fat was in the fire at once, and they have done everything to annoy me since. After telling a stranger, with whom we had business transactions, that we were shady people, I was called some choice names, and the woman said she would like to strike me. I asked her if she would do so with the same hand she took the Sacrament with, and she answered, 'Yes, you beast, I would.' This was Sunday morning, in front of several people, and then in the evening the whole lot went to chapel again. ..."

The question the lady asks us is whether we think she will get into trouble with the law if she goes around to the Wesleyan Chapel one of these Sunday mornings and "protests against the Sacrament being given to these people." Well, the law of slander and of "brawling" has its peculiarities; and on the whole we should leave the dear lady in the full enjoyment of her spiritual exercises—or, better still, bring her to our League meeting at the Dome.

What weird people killjoys are, to be sure. Fancy holding a "conference on public morals"! However, it is an advantage when they come out into the open and show their hands. The more they talk, the more they expose their silliness. Look at Dr. Cantlie attacking Eton jackets because they "cease where warmth should be." Surely that failing can be rectified by any active schoolmaster. Listen to Father Vaughan indulging his passion for childish ineptitude and asking his audience to "tell the Devil to go to hell, send him home to sit on his own hob and keep the fire." We should have thought it was the province of spiritual pastors to teach people how to make the best of life, not to invite them to curse imaginary demons. Hark at Dr. Macnamara. But no! that is asking too much—since he became a Minister! How he must at times wish he were "Fighting Mac" once more!

It has been suggested that Wales should be represented in the design for the new coinage. Taffy's desire is reasonable enough, but we fear its gratification would prove a troublesome problem for the designer. England, Ireland and Scotland, possessing national emblems of an artistic floral character—the rose, shamrock and thistle—present no difficulty. But how are we to satisfy the aspirations of the Welsh? The leek, although an eminently useful and pleasantly succulent vegetable, cannot be called, by any stretch of imagination, a thing of beauty. Nor can we conceive in what manner it could be combined effectively with the English rose. If Wales is determined to have its way, why not adopt the "marrow bone"?—inseparably connected with the name of Taffy—as its national emblem? A marrow bone garnished with sprigs of shamrock, rosebuds, and thistle heads, in low relief, might meet the case to the satisfaction of all parties. But if Wales is to be gratified in this respect, why not the Isle of Man also? The three Legs of Man, stamped on the reverse side of our elusive coins, would not only be quaint and interesting, but would serve as a constant reminder of their fleeting nature.

"The great mistake of the present day is for the two sexes to think they should keep apart," said Councillor Mrs. T. H. W. Idris recently. We were not aware of the fact ourselves. Let the worthy councillor come for a moonlight stroll with us one night.

What are the sanitary authorities at Portsmouth doing? Have they no eyes and no noses? Opposite Widley Road there is an open space belonging to a local councillor, bounded on three sides by inhabited houses. On this space people dump every class of filthy refuse—rotten meat, dead cats and dogs, fish bits, verminous bedding, and rags, and so forth. In the hot weather this mass of foul *debris* draws thousands of disgusting, garbage-feeding flies to it, and these make their way into the houses and crawl over the food. If the authorities do not abate the nuisance our advice to the householders affected is to abate the authorities.

For a specimen of sickening and revolting cant commend us to the brother of John Alexander Dickman, who is under sentence of death for murder of the Alnmouth Colliery cashier. The murder was of a sordid and calculated character, and we have no doubt the jury rightly viewed the evidence in bringing in a verdict of guilty. But while the case is under appeal there was the prisoner's brother, "William Dickman, Fence Houses," writing to the papers to say that he "cannot allow his grief to outweigh his conscience as to right and wrong," and requesting that no more letters should be written in his brother's favour, as he had been rightly convicted. "His own punishment will soon be over," cants this brotherly soul, "but he has put a blot on the name of the family. My blood boils to think that through his deed the finger of scorn can be pointed to his children, and, for myself, I feel as if everyone will be describing me as the murderer's brother. If my brother would cast off his spirit of bravado and be penitent, then, and then only, can he expect the public to have compassion on him. 'The sacrifice of God is a broken spirit; a broken and contrite heart, O God, Thou wilt not despise.'" If Mr. William Dickman could say nothing better for his brother than this, he might at any rate have had the decency to keep quiet. We are not theological authorities but we venture to suggest that God likes a brotherly brother.

Our attention is called to a certain newly-published book in which it is said that one of the characters "kneeled up and crossed herself solemnly in Latin." But what of it? If you go into some of the churches in St. Petersburg, for instance, you can see people kneeling up and crossing themselves solemnly in Greek.

There is something in the complaint of the Holywell Board of Guardians that they have to keep the wives and families of Territorials who are sent to prison for not putting in the necessary number of drills. "Two men had six children each," said the chairman at a recent meeting, "and, with their wives, fourteen people, were thrown on the rates. Men in such a position ought not to be received into the Territorials." On the other side, it may be argued that the larger a citizen's family the greater his responsibilities and interests in defending them from our friendt der Kaiser. According to the chairman, "a man who is the father of six children has done pretty well enough Territorial work, and ought to be exempt from service"; but as a fact he is exempt, for there is no legal obligation upon him to serve at all. Having undertaken the job, however, it is obvious he ought to do it without shirking, for unless a man puts in his drills he is no use as a citizen soldier, whatever may be the degree of his philopr' genitiveness.

The Vicar of Leeds is amongst those who protest against the exhibition of cinematograph pictures of the Johnson-Jeffries fight. He didn't protest when for 14 days the Johnson-Burns pictures were exhibited in Leeds, or when an English princess renounced her Protestant faith, and cursed her Protestant relations, to become a Queen; at any rate, we didn't hear him. Fact is, our burly and hon. friend, Mr. Will Thorne, hit the nail on the head in the House of Commons when he said that if Jeffries had won there wouldn't have been so much "sloppy talk" about these pictures. The better man won; and in a country which professes the worship of physical strength, physical ability, and physical endurance it is not easy to see that pictures of a prize fight are any more open to objection than those of a wrestling match, a swimming match, a football match or a sectarian tea-fight.

The Bishop of Ripon and a number of Anglican clergy and laymen in the diocese showed the right spirit in paying a fraternal visit to the Wesleyan Conference at Bradford. Sect for the sake of sect is rather worse than party politics for the sake of party; and it was nice of the Bishop to demonstrate to the world that Nonconformists and Anglicans are at least on speaking terms. After all, they will have to live together when they get to heaven.

Serious complaints reach us of the conduct of those in charge of the Sunday School "treat" in connection with St. John's Church at Wembley. On the outward journey to Worthing 600 children were packed into the trains without any supervision or control, as many as 16 or 17 in one compartment, while the teachers and their friends were in a saloon carriage by themselves. For all they would have known, or apparently have cared, a few dozen of the kiddies might have fallen out of the carriages while mischieviously playing with the doors or windows. We say "apparently cared" because at the end of the return journey the teachers "contentedly went home after a glorious time of train and seaside flirtation in absolute ignorance that fifteen were missing." It was only after telegraphing down the line that some of the parents learned their children had been left behind at Willesden Junction. So far as the teachers were concerned, however, they could not say whether the youngsters had been drowned, run over, or permanently lost. It really seems to have been a discreditably organised affair throughout. What says the Vicar?

The people of Malta depended largely on the sale of goat's milk for a living. Then a certain Colonel Sir David Bruce, after infecting and torturing many monkeys, declared that Malta fever was due to a germ in goat's milk, and persuaded the Government to forbid soldiers and sailors to drink it. The result has been to cripple the chief pastoral interest in the island and to spread serious discontent throughout a population already not over-burthened with loyalty. But Sir David points triumphantly to the discomfiture of the microbe (not the Goliath) of fever. Cases had dwindled in the garrison from 643 to nil or thereabouts. But the cases had already been reduced to 119 before the antilactic edict was promulgated, because the soldiers were removed from abominably insanitary barracks and the sailors benefited by the removal of accumulated sewage from the harbour. Meanwhile the civilians continue to drink the milk.

If we are to credit the Rev. Allen Roberts, a speaker at a meeting of the Colnes Group of the Gladstone League, "the Liberals work for the Lord and the Tories work for the Lords." And, to tell the truth, both of them make rather a botch of their job.

The experience of a Birmingham reader proves once again the danger of interfering with a policeman in the execution of his duty. He chanced to see a crowd in the street, and joining it saw three policemen endeavouring to convey a drunken woman to the station. Although the ambulance had been sent for, and was then only 500 yards away, they were dragging her and handling her cruelly; at least that was our reader's impression. He therefore suggested to one of the officers that they should wait for the arrival of the ambulance; whereupon he was himself collared, "struck on the jaw," and marched off to the station, the officer "twisting his arm all the way." At the station the officer preferred a charge of assault, but the station-sergeant would only take one of obstruction. Our informant was then searched, and kept in a cell for an hour before his friends were permitted to bail him out. The following Monday morning he was discharged by the magistrates with a fatuous caution not again to interfere with the police. And we assume he won't.

These differences between the spectator and the police are not uncommon. No matter how strong the sense of right, it is easy for the police to put a spectator in the wrong. The proper way to go about the matter is simply this. Let the spectator watch closely, follow the police and their prisoner to the police station, offer his version of the facts to the sergeant-in-charge, and demand to be called on the hearing as a witness. He should then attend the court, go into the box, and formally attest to the facts. If he can get anybody else in the crowd to corroborate his version, that will be all to the good, for the police seldom bargain for independent testimony against them. Beyond all doubt some police officers are unnecessarily brutal in the execution of their duty, and whenever it is observed it should be exposed in the public interest.

We read that a party of three lawyers recently had a marvellous escape from death in Italy. Their car leaped a bridge over a river and "whizzed through the dizzy space down to the bottom of a chasm 200 feet deep." It was smashed to fragments but they all escaped unhurt. The Devil still takes care of his own.

A Cape Town correspondent sends us a poster, "Notice to all whom it may concern," stating that the Government are anxious to receive information of any persons who have left or are leaving South Africa for Utah, the headquarters of the Mormons, and the public are "accordingly asked, if you should know of any people who have left or are preparing to leave the country for Utah (*via* England or any other country) to kindly give notice (which will be treated as confidential) to the Magistrate or other Government official." It is added that "there is reason to believe a propaganda is being carried on with a view to enticing women to Utah"; but this, of course the successors of Brigham Young will deny. They always do. Still, what action does the Government propose to take?

Our godly contemporary, the *Daily News*, keeps up its reputation for piety—even in its advertisement columns. Here are a couple of specimens from a recent issue:—

> For Conscience' Sake.—Gentleman giving up position as Manager of large stockbroker's office seeks Employment as Accountant or Secretary.
>
> Will any lady or gentleman help a converted racing man, whose songs and poems are highly commended by the Press, and sung with great success by recognised stars, on and off the stage? A bright prospect of fortune and scope for doing much to the glory of God if financial aid be lent. Liberal interest given.

What does Salvation Smith say to the idea of giving up the Stock Exchange for conscience' sake? And we wonder whether anyone will consider prospective "glory" good security for a loan?

The Rev. H. J. Roberts is the Vicar of Mochdre in Montgomeryshire. Recently his church was provided with a new organ, and a number of Nonconformists in the parish subscribed to its cost. There is also an annual concert held in the church school, the proceeds of which go to the church funds. At this concert several local Nonconformist artists ungrudgingly give their services. Now let us take the other side of the bill. Recently, on the occasion of certain anniversary services held in a Wesleyan chapel, this rev. gentleman beheld from his pulpit a considerably diminished congregation, and apparently the sight filled his righteous soul with wrath. "The English are more faithful to the Church than the Welsh," said he, "for the Welsh will go even to see a monkey on a stick." According to one of the poets, "Where'er God builds a house of prayer the devil builds a chapel near"; but possibly the poet had not received any benefits from Nonconformists, as Mr. Roberts had, and was therefore under no obligation to keep a civil tongue. No doubt the Nonconformists of Mochdre will remind him of his insult when next he passes the collection plate among them—and bring a plentiful supply of buttons.

Here is an interesting letter, taken from the week's Post Bag:—

> I am a widower with one little girl. Three months ago I met a widow who has one boy. After a month's acquaintance I asked her to marry me. She refused. On pressing for the reason she said she had been told that, as she was a niece of my late wife, we could not legally marry. I replied that, as marriage with a deceased wife's sister is legal, it must be legal to marry a deceased wife's niece. I promised to consult an eminent K.C. on the subject. The K.C. informed me that the proposed union would be illegal, and, even if contracted in a country in which such a marriage is legal, the English law would consider the parties were living together in concubinage, and should there be any children, according to law they would be illegitimate. We are both in robust health and of fine physique. No one could call either of us timid. But, as no breath of scandal has ever yet touched either of our lives, we cannot make up our minds to take a step fraught with such dire consequences. We continue to meet, as we feel we cannot live without one another. We are drifting in dangerous waters. Where is the Common Sense Government?

Where indeed! But it is coming. Meanwhile, we advise the couple to get married.

Speaking wholly on first sight, the Primitive Methodists of Eastbourne seem to have got hold of a solid lump of sensible Christianity in the person of the Rev. John Clennell. A Sunday or two ago, he had a very lively "go" at the Pharisaical spirit in religion, saying, among other things, that though many wealthy Christians were severe on the use of such public conveniences as Sunday tramcars, "if you were to run into their church and tell them that burglars were stealing their silver plate at home they would rush out, and take the first tramcar they could get so as to be home in time to save their possessions"; at least, if these were not the exact words spoken, they are as near as one of the reverend gentleman's audience remembers them. Anybody know whether Mr. Clennell is always as broad-minded and straight-speaking as this report would appear to indicate?

The Public Morals Conference is going to send a deputation to ask Mr. Churchill to prevent the publication of "whatever is likely to shock public modesty." That is a large order, particularly as Mr. Stead knows a servant girl who was "indescribably shocked" when she saw a Highlander. Meanwhile, it seems to us disgustingly indecent for horses to go about with their quarters undraped.

Mr. Stephen Paget has been advising all the little boys and girls to study their London, to explore museums and mean streets, even to attend all manner of churches—except, of course, the sanctuaries of Christian Science. We would further advise them to attend all sorts of lectures, not even excepting those of Mr. Paget. But in that case they will do well to leave their dogs at home.

The Government will not, under any circumstances, entertain the idea of a tax upon Betting and Racing. Such a tax, says the Chancellor of the Exchequer, would be giving official sanction to—if not actually validating—gambling. But Mr. Lloyd George informs us, in answer to a question, that last year he received £39,937 as duty upon playing-cards, and that he charges income tax upon the profits of professional betting men. We leave our goody-goody friends to reconcile the apparent inconsistency.

Apropos our recent comments upon certain references in the *Catholic Herald* to the late King, our contemporary says it is glad to have earned our disapproval, and that it certainly should not feel very easy in its mind if the case were otherwise. It almost sounds as though our strictures had gone home.

THE WEEK'S "CHESTNUT":—

The householder had been complaining of the eccentricities of his gas meter, and was determined to get level with the Company; so the next time the inspector called to "take" the meter he was shown into the cellar where it was situated, whilst the householder, having fortified himself with a meal of bread and cheese and Spanish onions, proceeded to the nearest burner and having opened the tap, proceeded to blow his hardest down the pipe, continuing the process whilst the perplexed inspector was checking the register. The result was extraordinary, and has puzzled that inspector ever since. Instead of finding the householder indebted to the Company, the register showed that the Company owed him 2s. 6d.!

THE JOHN BULL LEAGUE HAS ITS EYE ON—

ROYAL COMMISSIONERS WHO "SIT" FOR YEARS.

"John Bull's" Biscuits.

NOTICE.—SALE ADVERTISEMENTS.—No biscuits are awarded to tradesmen for announcing that a "sale price" is more than the "actual value." Nor do we encourage with nourishment advertisers who state the articles they offer to be of "no use." Both these cases prove that truth may sometimes be found, not only in an affidavit, but even in an advertisement.

AGE.—Biscuits are not given to general servants "2 to 224," or to veterans of 8 years of age. The ages of the former are often inscrutable, while the latter may be enjoying their second childhood.

The announcement "ladies wanted for sale" does not move us to generosity.

PATENT MEDICINES.—We do not give biscuits to patent medicine vendors for the injunction to the public to get "the same pills as Mr. Robinson had."

BRIDEGROOMS.—No more wedding cake for these harmless, necessary adjuncts when they go away "in a costume of rose vieux, trimmed with glace, with hat to match." They evidently foresee who is destined to wear the breeches, and they are lucky to get away at all.

For advertising: "*Irreparable loss often incurred by storing property in Stables. Our Warehouses are* HATED. *Quite unique,*"

ARTHUR JONES & SON, DUBLIN,
TAKE THE BISCUIT.

For presenting Mutiny veterans to the public as "the men who fought AND DIED *on India's gory plain,"*

THE MANAGER OF THE LEICESTER PALACE THEATRE
TAKES THE BISCUIT.

For the following paragraph: "'*Have any of the family ever suffered from* SANITY?' *asked the foreman of a Southwark coroner's jury recently. 'No,' replied the witness, 'nothing like that,'*"

THE DAILY MIRROR
TAKES THE BISCUIT.

For the following: "DRUNK AND RIOTOUS.—*An open air service in connection with the Free Church Council took place at Rhiw Terrace on Thursday evening. A gospel address was given by Mr. Pow, evangelist of West Monmouthshire Mission. A solo was nicely rendered by Miss Gladys Thomas,*"

THE FREE PRESS OF MONMOUTHSHIRE
TAKES THE BISCUIT.

For stating, with reference to a stage bayonet charge, "In pretending to bayonet him, the man unfortunately caught him THROUH THE LEFT EYE-BROW UNDER THE LEFT EYE,"

THE DAILY TELEGRAPH
TAKES THE BISCUIT.

For announcing that: "Our prices compare favourably with most firms, but we are specialists and CAN DO YOU *better,"*

THE MADRAS STABLE CO.
TAKES THE BISCUIT.

For the following report: "William John Hart was summoned for the non-payment of his contributions towards the support of his dog IN AN INDUSTRIAL SCHOOL,"

THE BOURNEMOUTH GUARDIAN
TAKES THE BISCUIT.

For advertising "Gentleman's HEAVY 18*ct. single stone gipsy ring, weight over* 8 CWT.,"

H. RICHARDS, OF HOLLOWAY ROAD, N.,
TAKES THE BISCUIT.

For the following report of evidence: "She observed them walking along the road a short distance from A WOODEN BRIDGE CARRYING A FOOTPATH INTO THE FIELD IN WHICH THE BARN IS SITUATED,"

THE NOTTINGHAM EVENING POST
TAKES THE BISCUIT.

For stating that "Tyldesley scored 30 *off* NINE BALLS AT ONE TIME,"

THE DAILY EXPRESS
TAKES THE BISCUIT.

For stating in a lecture that "in Southern Palestine when agriculture was neglected, not only did the crops disappear, BUT THE VERY LAND ITSELF DISAPPEARED,"

THE REV. J. K. FAIRLIE, OF FENWICK,
TAKES THE BISCUIT.

For alluding to "the JUBILANT POCKETS *of the negroes,"*

THE MORNING LEADER
TAKES THE BISCUIT.

THE SHIRKING OF FATHERHOOD—AND MOTHERHOOD.

MORE DIVERSE VIEWS OF THE GREAT PROBLEM.

(This discussion arises out of an article by Margaret Macgregor, entitled "The Shirking of Motherhood," which appeared in our issue of June 18th. Other letters appeared in our issues of July 9, 16, and 23.)

L. B. C. writes: "I am one of a family of 16, was married at 17, and had two fine, healthy children before I was 20. I had to work hard to bring them up and educate them, and have put one to a trade. The others have not yet left school. Doubtless you think I am a widow, but no. I have just enough from my husband to keep him. The children he has no trouble or thought for. Had I married a man who could have taken his place as the father and done his duty to his family, doubtless I should have had 16 children to be proud of the same as my mother did. I am sure no woman loves children and home more than I, but as I am not much over thirty, better luck next time."

"Another Englishman" writes: "I thought I would like to bring my case to your notice. I am employed as night porter at a large workhouse in the Midlands, and having been on night duty for 12 years continuously, I naturally have tried to get a change, but it is no go; every time I try no matter if it be to the Board of Guardians I am serving or to any other, it is the same old cry. I have three children, which are branded by the rotten system 'encumbrances,' and I have to stand aside and give way to my juniors in the service just because I have lived a natural life!"

A. P. (Chelsea) writes: "I suppose I am a shirker of fatherhood, if by that is meant a self-respecting, hard-working man who absolutely cannot afford the pleasure of getting married and the added pleasure of fatherhood. I am one of the fast vanishing middle-classes who made old England what she was; the classes who once formed her disappearing backbone; the classes who are now taxed almost to the point of extinction; the classes whose sense of responsibility alone is the cause of their childlessness; the classes to whom fatherhood and ruination are one and the same thing; the classes who are bled to provide a huge subsidy for the most irresponsible classes of the country; the classes who must stand quietly by while the worst classes produce a horde of their own kind to overrun our streets, parks, and lanes; the classes made mainly bachelors and spinsters; the classes who are, ere long, to be drowned in their own blood, so soon as the limit line of taxation has been reached; the classes who are accused, by very short-sighted folks, of being shirkers of fatherhood. If a man is a shirker because he feels the great responsibility of a family when he knows that his income will not allow him to do his duty to his family; if a man can be called a shirker because he tries to dodge ruination, starvation the workhouse . . . or a rattlesnake—then I am a shirker."

"Disgusted" writes: "When that Business Government comes, perhaps the children of the State will receive a little more attention; then, perhaps, we workers won't object so much to large families. At the present time, the idea seems to be that taxes, etc., must be spent on warships, whilst the amount spent on the education and care of the young is but a fleabite. Every penny spent on the children is begrudged. As things are at present, I would advise those with less than 30s. a week to have no family whatever. Let those who can afford children have them, and let's stop all this humbug about us workers having large families."

"A Father of Six" thinks that "if a State allowance of 2s. 6d. per week per child, after the third healthy and living one was granted, there would not be such an outcry as is at present being raised. This grant might be continued till the child reaches an age of perhaps 12 or 13 years of age. I should like to see JOHN BULL readers express an opinion on this."

"A Mother of One" writes:—"I am a married woman whose husband earns enough to keep three or four of us fairly comfortably. My father has been helpless for years, and is not likely to get any better. Under the circumstances, my mother cannot go out to work; so it has been my privilege ever since I was married to support them both. It would not be fair to expect my husband to do this, and as I can command a good salary, and knew I should have to help my parents, I did not give up my work on marriage. It is on account of this that I have had to wait seven years for my little son, and no one but a childless wife can imagine the heart-hunger I felt during that time, at the sight of other people's babies. My husband, who is a splendid chap and would welcome half-a-dozen little kiddies, never complains, though he has every right to do so. I feel sure there are many more married folk who are *apparently* shirking parentage, who have some very good reason for doing so. Anyway, I'm going to order 'two' next time, to make up for having to wait so long. Please say a good word for 'unwilling' shirkers like us."

Mr. Herbert Wales writes: "In my last book, 'The Wife of Colonel Hughes,' I have tried to show the results which, in some cases, may be expected to follow an attempt to skirk parental responsibility. Much as I should have liked to have done so, I did not venture to deal with the subject so freely and candidly as is done by many of your correspondents, and it necessarily only forms a slight thread running through the book. None the less, it has been sufficient to bring down upon it the ban of the 'libraries' censorship'; and I have before me at the present moment a letter from one of the libraries, written to a subscriber who had complained of their refusal to supply the book, explaining that it was necessary for them to decline 'this kind of book' because they were afraid of 'the Public Prosecutor'!"

A Putney reader sends several advertisements, and suggests that they to a great extent explainthe problem of the shirking of parentage. The following is a sample:

> Man and Wife, WITHOUT FAMILY, wanted to take charge of boys' home; must be earnest Christians and abstainers. Address, with particulars and testimonials, Supt., Orphan Homes, Bridge of Earn.

Our correspondent adds that several Prohibition teetotalers are on the management board of these Orphan Homes, and pertinently asks, "Is this 'no family' cry the latest prohibition notion of these very good people? And if a woman is expected to take the place of a mother to orphans, is she better qualified to do so because she has had no experience of motherhood?"

"Nemo" sums up the situation as follows:—"To see a man and his wife, walking out with a little one between them signifying that they are united in a bond of love in the person of their offspring is a sight one likes to gaze upon; but to witness the tragic drama of family life as is presented in this district (the Borough) compels one to come to the conclusion that limitation in families is a blessing in disguise; and if these poor people who find themselves encumbered had the opportunity of living their lives over again they would resolutely shirk fatherhood and motherhood."

This discussion is closed for the present, and many very interesting letters must be held over for some future occasion. Next week, the authoress of our original article, Miss Margaret Macgregor, will reply upon the whole discussion, and we shall then deal with another aspect of the question—viz., the large families of the poor—under the heading of "The White Slaves of Morality."

WAR OFFICE CORRUPTION.

BURKING OUR CHARGES WHERE IS LORD KITCHENER?

Our readers will remember a recent article in which we alleged that certain officials belonging to the War Office are bribed by contractors. It is common knowledge that "palm oil" is necessary if contracts are to be secured, or, having been secured, are to work smoothly, but obviously this is the sort of allegation that is most difficult to prove. But it happened that we were made acquainted not only with the fact of illicit transactions between a large firm of contractors and War Office officials, but were placed in possession of the necessary proof. The founder of the firm in question had steadily set his face against these illicit dealings, but his sons, less scrupulous, or more "up-to-date" in their methods, had resorted to them. Not, however, without compunction on the part of one member of the firm, compunction that in course of time caused him such searching of heart that he determined either to persuade the firm to abandon the practice or retire from the business. Unable to persuade them, he resolved to resign, and the following is a copy of the letter in which he intimated to them this decision.

> GENTLEMEN,—If the triennial contracts are continued after the ——, or notice to discontinue is not given by that date, I object to remain a party to such immoral procedure, as the continued bribery of officials concerned in adjusting the schedule under which this contract was obtained, as it is quite unnecessary to continue with such a contract that requires dishonesty to make it successful or to pay, and wish to be immediately gazetted from partnership,

Now the interpretation of this letter is not open to dispute. It is the plain statement of a partner that his firm has been in the habit of bribing officials concerned in adjusting schedules, in order to get more money than the terms of the contract permitted. It may conceivably be said that the writer of the letter was under misapprehension—that he, an active member of the firm, was mistaken—in telling his partners they were in the habit of accepting contracts which required "dishonesty" to make them "successful"—that he was dreaming. But such a contention cannot be seriously advanced, for the partner in question was not content with the mere threat. Immediately his colleagues made it clear that they did not see eye to eye with him in the matter, he retired from the firm, and his retirement was noted in the *Daily Telegraph* within a month of the date of the letter.

Almost immediately after the publication of our article we were invited by the War Office authorities to submit our proofs. Accordingly our Assistant Editor called upon Sir Edward Ward, and not only left him the original of the letter we have quoted above, but gave him the name of a person who would explain to him how the system of bribery complained of was worked. Sir Edward Ward was informed that the records of the firm would furnish proof of the allegations, and that a person we named undertook to trace the entries in the private ledger and elsewhere that would bring the transactions home. In due course we were informed that enquiry would be instituted, and there the matter rested until we received a letter dated May 30th, 1910, and signed R. H. Brade, from which we take the following :—

> They (the Army Council) have caused a searching investigation to be made into the allegations contained therein [*i.e.*, in our article], entrusting the conduct of the enquiry to a barrister chosen by the Director of Public Prosecutions.
>
> All the evidence available has been taken and weighed by this gentleman, who has reported that not only is there no ground for the institution of criminal proceedings against any of the parties involved by the allegations in JOHN BULL, but that there is no reliable evidence at all in support of that allegation, nor is there even, in this case, any evidence which can justify a well-grounded suspicion as to the integrity either of the contractor or of the foreman of works.

It would be impossible to give a more complete acquittal. Plainly, we could not accept that finding, and so we wrote under date June 1st, asking the Council to acquaint us with "the exact nature of the investigation which was held, *i.e.*, the name of the barrister who conducted it, and the character of the evidence placed before him." To this the Council replied, through Mr. Brade, that the name of the barrister who conducted the enquiry was Mr. Archibald Read, of 4, Paper Buildings, Temple, and that all the sources indicated by the Assistant Editor "were utilised *as far as practicable* in the course of the enquiry"; and that was all. To this we replied, under date June 13th :—

> We put before you a letter from a member of the firm of contractors concerned, in which he said that he must retire from the firm unless his partners ceased to bribe War Office officials, a letter followed up by his resignation. We also gave you the name of the member of the contractor's staff who would explain to you how the bribery was worked, and prove his allegations by the books of the firm. Do you say that Mr. ——'s letter was a forgery? Or that his late servant failed to trace the payments as he undertook to do?

The reply was a repetition of the statement that the enquiry was closed, and that in the opinion of the Council there was no good reason for reopening it.

It is a scandalous ending to a farcical enquiry. The Army Council say they instituted "a searching investigation." Is that true? We said above we had named to Sir Edward Ward a gentleman who undertook to trace the payments through the records of the firm. Was this offer, so indispensable if there was to be real enquiry, accepted? It was not. The person in question was communicated with by Mr. Read and his statement was taken. That is all. Mr. Read undertook to go into the enquiry with him, but afterwards wrote under date April 20th :—

> I should have communicated with you before on the subject, but I have only recently decided that I should not again require your attendance.

The person to whom this was addressed protested. He said it was distinctly understood that he should be given the opportunity of proving his charges by the books. He wrote under date May 6th :—

> I wish to point out to you that I should not have made my statement to you as I did if I thought you did not intend to keep faith with me, and as I consider that I am entitled to make an examination of the papers referred to, for the purpose of proving my evidence, I now beg to say that I am prepared to attend and go through the documents—as originally intended—without asking the War Office to make me any payment whatever for the work.

Mr. Read denied that he had ever arranged to take the evidence, but apparently he forgot his letter of March 22nd, in which he writes :—

> I have now received the necessary authority to pay you a fee of five guineas for your services in attending on me on such days as I may require, to give evidence and *such assistance in examination of the documents, as may be necessary to test and explain your statement.*

The italics are ours. It is obvious from the correspondence that Mr. Read's original intention was to accept the services of the person indicated. It was impossible for Mr. Read to trace evidence of the bribery through the books of the firm without the assistance of one conversant with those books. Why was this assistance accepted and afterwards rejected? Why did the Army Council refuse to allow our representative to be present at the enquiry?

The Army Council decided to burke the enquiry, but they seem to have had some consciousness of the unworthy part to which they were committing themselves, for *they have refused the renewal of the contract to this firm!* WHERE IS LORD KITCHENER?

"AN ISLE OF WIGHT SCANDAL."

THE SHANKLIN ISOLATION HOSPITAL.

We regret that we have been compelled to hold over the following reply from the Shanklin Isolation Hospital Joint Clerks till now. The delay has arisen from the fact that, in accordance with our usual custom, we submitted the reply to our orignal correspondent, for any observations upon it, and its return has been delayed by illness.

The attention of the Sandown and Shanklin Joint Hospital Board has been drawn to articles in your paper under the above heading. The Board have made due inquiries into the statements made therein and find that they are absolutely unjustifiable; and in justice to the Board and those serving under them it is asked that you will give this letter as wide a circulation as has been given to your articles which are calculated to mislead the public.

The Isolation Hospital in question is not a private institution as your article would infer, but was provided, and is maintained, under a Provisional Order of the Local Government Board, and is not carried on for profit.

The Board are satisfied that the Hospital is satisfactorily equipped, and they are always ready and willing to provide everything that may from time to time be deemed necessary to maintain and improve the efficiency of the Hospital.

The Isolation Hospital is, of course, only intended for first cases, and so as to check the spread of infectious diseases; and the Medical Officer does not admit more cases than the Hospital can adequately accommodate.

With regard to the accident to the nurse which you mention, this occurred entirely through neglect and disobedience on the part of the nurse herself; and Mrs. Barnes is in no way to blame for the occurrence. Mrs. Barnes entered the service of the Board with excellent credentials; she is a trained nurse and has had many years' experience in various large and important institutions. The Board are satisfied that Mrs. Barnes is a most competent nurse, and that she has discharged her duties in a satisfactory manner. The Medical Officer of the Hospital, and medical attendants on patients at the Hospital, as well as the parents of patients, speak in the highest terms of the care and kind attention bestowed on the patients by the nurse.

With reference to the article which appeared in your paper of May 14th last, full inquiries were made by the Board into the circumstances set forth in the letters of your correspondent in 1902, and the same were found to be entirely without foundation; the child's own medical attendant stating that she received proper nursing and attention, and that he had no cause for complaint in any particular during the whole of the time he attended her. The doctor further stated that the cause of death was post diphtheritic paralysis, and that nothing the nurse could have done would have saved the child's life. In this connection it should be mentioned that Mrs. Barnes was not the nurse, but the late Mrs. Kavanagh, in whom the Board had also every confidence. Your reference to Mr. Barnes is also absolutely incorrect. The appointment is always of a caretaker and nurse at a joint salary.

The authorities of this hospital appear to be a very happy and contented body. All the arrangements are for the best; all the officers are of the best; all our criticisms are "entirely without foundation"; all our correspondents were wrong—everything at the hospital is exactly as it should be. At the same time, we learn, with interest, that notwithstanding this idyllic state of affairs, various improvements are being made under the advice of the new matron—including the erection of additional buildings and the provision of the necessary utensils for the comfort and safety of both patients and nurses. So perhaps our articles did a little good, after all.

WHAT IS YOUR NUMBER? SEE PAGE III. OF COVER.

ANOTHER MISCARRIAGE OF JUSTICE.

TWO MAGISTRATES' DIFFERENT VIEWS UPON POLICE INFALLIBILITY.

The following case appears to us to call for immediate enquiry.

On June 4th, Wm. Buchner, a youth of 17, living with his parents at 32, Whittam Street, Hyde Road, N., and apprenticed to Messrs. Lewis and Towers, of Hartwell Street, Dalston Junction (where his father had been employed for 21 years), was brought before Mr. d'Eyncourt, at the North London Police Court, and fined £2 or a month's imprisonment for street betting.

The only witness for the prosecution was Police-Sergeant Burrows, who arrested young Buchner at 1.20 p.m. on the previous Saturday afternoon. His evidence was that, while passing along Ashfield Street, he saw two young men standing and watched them. One wrote something on a slip of paper and then wrapped a silver coin in it and gave it to Buchner. Within the next few minutes he saw other youths hand him something, and when he approached for the purpose of arresting him, two young fellows who were beside him ran off. Upon searching him at Dalston Lane Police Station, 13s. 9d. was found upon him, but nothing relating to betting. Cross-examined, he admitted that the prisoner accounted for the money by saying that he had just previously received 14s. as his week's wages, and that he had paid threepence out of it to the lad who prepared his tea. He could only account for the prisoner not having any slips by suggesting that he passed them to the youths who ran away.

The foreman stated that ten minutes before he had paid Buchner 14s. as his wages.

Buchner gave evidence on his own behalf, stating that he left the yard shortly after one, and at the end of Hartwell Street a fellow-apprentice, Wm. Cooper, of 112, Ballance Road, Homerton, gave him 3d. for the tea lad—and that he thereupon returned to the works and gave it him, together with a like sum for himself. He was waiting for his father, so that they might walk home together. As a matter of fact, he did not understand anything at all about betting. The two lads standing with him were two other apprentices, and they ran away on his being arrested in order to tell his father of the occurrence.

Cooper corroborated this evidence, but the magistrate said he "could not possibly reject the police evidence. It was well known that persons engaged in the mischievous business of street-betting got rid of slips and money on the approach of the police," and proceeded upon such evidence to brand this youth with the eternal stigma of a conviction for a criminal offence. Mr. Lewis, one of the lad's employers, paid the fine and thus saved him from imprisonment.

Although Mr. d'Eyncourt finds it impossible to reject the uncorroborated evidence of a policeman, even when diametrically opposed to that of several independent witnesses, his colleague on the Bench, Mr. Hedderwick, is of a different frame of mind. A few days ago Police-Sergeant Burrows appeared in another betting prosecution, and had to admit that, with a brother officer, he had falsely sworn that defendant was carrying on a certain business. Mr. Hedderwick thereupon dismissed the case, observing that if the police officers could be wrong upon such a point, there was no guarantee that they were more correct in their other evidence.

We, therefore, appeal to the Home Secretary to inquire into the matter for himself. One point alone is sufficient to discredit the sergeant's story: Why, if he was near enough to the youths to be able to swear to the passing of the slips and *silver* money, did he fail to see the alleged passing away when he was nearer?

THE "YARD" AND THE MAN.

They thought the man had committed a crime,
So they questioned him for a long, long time;
His tales and excuses were far from clear,
So they said, "We're certain there's something queer!"
Being nearly positive, what could they do
But leave him alone for a day or two?
And when they wanted him, later on,
Would you believe it?—the fellow had gone!

THE KING'S PARDON.

THE CASE OF *NAVAL* DESERTERS.

In our issue of July 2nd we pointed out that the full pardon granted to deserters did not apply to the Navy; and that, "as presumably they deserted because they disliked the service, we presume most of them will 'lie low and say nuffin'." Judging from the number of letters we have received, our remarks seem to have come too late in many cases.

One case in particular is a very sad one. The man, the father of a family and in a good situation, thinking to get a free pardon, wrote to the Admiralty, giving his father's address. The following is the reply he received:—

> With reference to your letter of the 24th ultimo, stating that you are a deserter from the Royal Marines, I am commanded by my Lords Commissioners of the Admiralty to inform you that your case is not covered by the terms of the Amnesty granted to Naval prisoners on the occasion of His Majesty's accession. All deserters who wish their cases to be considered must surrender on board one of His Majesty's ships, or, in this country, to the police.

Naturally the man feels much concerned, not only as regards himself, but the awkward position he has placed his father in. He asks our advice. That's too bad. Suppose we advise surrender; he won't like it, and if *we tell him* to "lie low"—well, we should be liable to prosecution, and we have no doubt the Admiralty would like to get us out of the way for a short time.

We shall have more to say about the matter next week.

THE CHARING CROSS HOSPITAL.

ANOTHER COMPLAINT.

We have received the following letter from a member of the United Service Club:—

"The other day a lad in charge of the lift at the United Service Club broke his leg while working the lift. He was sent at once to the hospital, where his leg was put into splints and the authorities refused to keep the lad in hospital, and sent him back to the Club. The lad was in agony and raving, and the nurse in whose charge he was called in the Club doctor. He had the courage and determination to at once remove the splints; they had been unskilfully put on—in fact were too firmly and tightly applied.

"Now the Club subscribes to the Hospital and the poor lad should have been comfortably kept there under proper supervision, and not sent back to the Club, but it appears no really responsible person who knew the rules and regulations of the Hospital was present at the time the lad was brought to the Hospital! On inquiry it appears a mistake had been made, and the lad was taken into the Hospital. That the person who put the leg into splints was inexperienced appears to be beyond question or doubt. Something is wrong, and calls for inquiry, and is necessary to ensure such suffering and hardship not again happening. JOHN BULL has done much to expose the management in these charitable institutions which are in as poor favour by the ordinary public as our workhouses. If a club like the United Service is so treated, which subscribes £10 10s. yearly to the hospital, what is it that the poor may suffer?"

BIRTHDAYS OF THE WEEK.

"JOHN BULL'S" GREETINGS.

July 25th.—RT. HON. ARTHUR JAMES BALFOUR.

Elusive leader! who is sometimes led,
At times your Party's tail, at times the head.
Try similar wiles with Time. If you succeed,
Your life will be a lengthy one indeed.

July 26th.—GEORGE BERNARD SHAW.

If you contrive to live until
The public understand your plays;
(The notion strikes one like a chill!)
You'll be a man of many days.

What Is Your Number?
See page iii. of Cover.

YOUNG MOORE'S MONTHLY PROPHECY.

AUGUST.

Young Moore is pleased to be able to announce that a most careful study of the stars has revealed a promising outlook for the month of August. So far as England is concerned, the planets do not appear to have any malignant intentions; but sorrow will be brought upon Scotland on the 1st by reason of that date being a Scottish Quarter Day.

In striking contrast to the gloom that will pervade the hearths and homes of our northern conquerors, England on the same day will be given up to joy. There will be feverish activity on the part of the railway companies. Crowded trains will career across the country to and from the sea. Thousands of elated passengers will take their annual ride in a first-class compartment—with a third-class ticket. A sudden eruption of empty paper bags and ginger-beer bottles will temporarily disfigure the countryside. With fall of night swarms of querulous children will be dragged by equally querulous parents homewards. Blokes and their donahs will resume their respective head-gear. The mouth organ and the concertina will cease to fray the affrighted air. Peace will descend once more upon the land. August Bank Holiday will be numbered amongst the joys that were.

On the 5th there will be dismay amongst the denizens of the deep. Torn remorselessly from their briny beds, the most luscious of bivalves will clench their valves in vain against the insinuating blade of the brisk bar-tender. Accompanied by brown bread and butter and foaming stout, they will descend in countless dozens to cavernous depths before unknown. Put tersely, on the 5th the oyster season opens.

Agitated movements of the planet Venus suggest that during the month the suffragists will indulge in some characteristically eccentric actions of the customary futile description.

However important may be the matters on hand, Parliament may be depended upon to rise before the 12th, for the simple, business-like reason that grouse shooting commences on that date. It would be cruel to disappoint the grouse.

"ARE YOU LONELY?"

MORE ADOUT THE "FRIENDSHIP BUREAU."

As "C. H.," the manager of the "Friendship Bureau," declines the invitation to demonstrate to us exactly the kind of business he is conducting, we must do so for him. Three young ladies recently got into communication with this concern, paid the fee and received letters making appointments. A Mr. Allen, Mr. Long and Mr. Davis were to meet them at different times, different places and different dates. In each case two of the girls watched while the other kept the appointment, and, strange to relate, *Allen, Long and Davis were one and the same person!* and in each case, the "friendship" suggested was of the same character.

Now for another illustration.

A gentleman wrote from a West End address to 150, High Holborn, asking particulars of the Bureau. He received the usual reply—with the exception that he was asked for a half-crown fee instead of a shilling—probably on account of his address.

The half-crown fee was despatched with the following letter:

> My object is not matrimony—that is an impossibility for me. My requirements are just love. I am 30 years old, and have practically any time I choose for myself. My favourite hobby is sheer laziness, and I want a pretty girl to keep me company sometimes in the enjoyment of that hobby. She must be as fair as possible, as young as possible; extreme youth is my fad.

By return post came the reply:

> We have pleasure in giving you the address of Miss ——, who, we trust, you will find a suitable friend. Of course we have not given any particulars you sent us, as we treat those in confidence. We have advised the person named that you are writing.

We have only to add that the lazy young man was our Special Commissioner!

A SOUTHWICK SCAMP.

A MAGISTRATE'S GRAVE ERROR OF JUDGMENT.

In our issue of July 16th we dealt with the case of gross assault upon a child under the heading of "A Brutal Brighton Beast." We owe Brighton an apology. It is not the queen of watering places which shelters the beast, but sleepy old Southwick.

A few days after the publication of our article we received the following communication from Mr. Thomas Gates, the solicitor who appeared for the defendant:—

As the solicitor who appeared for the defendant, may I be allowed to offer one or two remarks?

The defendant's version, shortly, is that he found the child on the Upper Brighton Road; she informed him she had lost her way, and that she lived over the line, so defendant took her along to the old Shoreham Bridge railway crossing but found she did not appear to know where she was. She said her father worked at the Soap Works—which is close by the railway at Kingston, so the defendant took her there.

The signalman referred to in your article was spoken to at the Old Shoreham Bridge, and defendant says he did not pass beyond the Bridge Road.

The cakes were bought on the way home and in the presence of the signalman's boy who accompanied the man and the little girl a good part of the way to the Soap Works.

So much for the defendant's version with which I am not so much concerned as in contradicting some statements which appeared in your issue of July 16th.

The child was not in the habit of going to this particular milk shop. She so stated in Court, so it is possible she may have lost her way.

The doctor stated that the child had not been tampered with nor hurt in any way. His evidence was clear and emphatic, and negatived entirely the credibility of the father's statement of finding blood on the child; and it was admitted there was no blood on the child's clothing.

My only comment on the lie told by the father in stating that he was a police constable is that it may have some bearing upon the credibility of his evidence upon other matters.

The case, I believe, was as you say, not reported in the local press, but I know that the father himself endeavoured to prevent this.

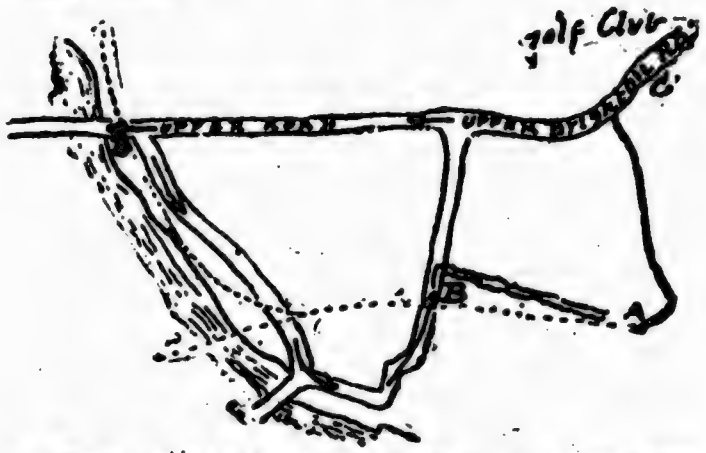
The magistrate had the advantage of seeing the witnesses, and the manner in which the evidence was given, and one thing was obvious: that the little child was not allowed by the mother—who sat by her—to say anything, the mother persisted in answering every question and telling the little girl what to say.

You say that beyond all doubt the child had been assaulted by somebody; I hope this letter may at least leave some doubt in your readers' minds as to this. I think if you had heard the case you would have agreed with the magistrate that not only was there insufficient evidence against the accused, but nothing was disclosed to warrant the case being adjourned.

The letter was placed in the hands of our Special Commissioner with instructions to proceed to Brighton and investigate matters on the spot. Here is his report:—

OUR COMMISSIONER'S REPORT.

Armed with Mr. Gates's letter, I walked over the ground therein mentioned, and sketched the following rough map.



A. Where the child lives. B. Dairy. C. Where child was seen at 4.30. D. Signalman's box, Old Shoreham. Distance from "C" to "D" 1½ miles.

With this map before me, together with additional evidence, I became possessed of some hours later, I sat myself down to study matters.

Let me deal with the letter from the defendant's solicitor first, and let us remember that the defendant lives in the district and knows it well.

He met the child in the Upper Brighton Road. She told him she was lost, that she lived over the line, and that her father worked at the Soap Works.

What did the Defendant do? Let his solicitor speak: *Defendant took her along to the old Shoreham Bridge Railway crossing!*

Now, look at my sketch. From the Upper Brighton Road the tall chimney stack and the buildings of the Soap Works can be easily seen—and I might with truth say they can be smelt also. The railway crossing at New Shoreham is less than half a mile away.

The distance from Upper Brighton Road to Old Shoreham Bridge is over a mile!

The man in charge of the railway crossing at Old Shoreham informs me that he was in his box when the man and child passed over the line and went to the foot of the bridge, some two hundred yards further on. The man never spoke until he retraced his steps some minutes later, then he asked for the Soap Works, the child remarking that she went to the Board School, and that if once there she could find her way home herself! Then the signalman sent his son with the man and girl to show them the way. On arrival at Dolphin Hard, the boy was told by the man to return home as he no longer required him!

It is true that the child was not in the habit of going to the dairy; neither did the article of July 16th definitely state that she was.

I am in possession of a copy of the doctor's certificate, and it certainly contains no such statement that "the child had not been tampered with nor hurt in any way." Moreover, I have interviewed the doctor and he informs me that it is quite possible the child might have been tampered with. The certificate states that "the child had not been violated." After seeing the child, I should imagine such a thing would be a physical impossibility, without murder accompanying it.

In the original article it was stated that the father did not see the man when he brought the child home. This is an error and was not in the man's original statement. The father saw him through the bedroom window. He was partly undressed at the time and went down to his child as soon as possible.

As regards the father assuming the rôle of constable, his explanation is quite rational—"I did it because I thought he would go quietly."

Now, about the father of the child having a hand in keeping the report of the case out of the local press. This he flatly denies and challenges Mr. Gates to prove his statement. The statement of Mr. Gates seems to me ridiculous in face of the fact that it was the father himself who made the case known through the columns of JOHN BULL when he found that the local press had failed to publish it.

So much for Mr. Gates's letter—which I certainly think does neither himself nor his client any service.

I obtained also considerable additional information bearing upon the case, and, reviewing the evidence as a whole, and the manner in which the charge was dealt with and dismissed, all within eighteen hours, I am simply amazed. I strongly advise the evidence being forwarded to the Home Secretary.

There is no doubt in our mind that this little girl has told a truthful story, and that somewhere in Southwick there lurks a human beast unfit for the society of decent men and women, and a danger to the safety of defenceless little children. He must be run to earth.

JOHN BULL CLUB.

The proposed establishment of this Club has aroused great interest among our readers, and many suggestions have already reached us in connection with the project. But the first thing to be done is to secure suitable premises, as to which we hope to be in a position to make an announcement at an early date. The terms of membership, etc., will follow, and we hope to have the Club in full working order during the Autumn. It should make a splendid rendezvous for John Bullites and Leaguers.

AN INTERESTING LETTER.

THE VIEWS OF A LEVE -HEADED MAN OF BUSINESS.

We make no apology for publishing the following letter, recently received by the Editor. Quite apart from any personal consideration, it is so full of sound common sense that we commend its perusal:—

"I have read with great interest your speech in the House last night, and also with equal interest the *Daily Telegraph's* comment to the effect that whilst you hoped to make a convert of the Chancellor of the Exchequer, you did not. Of course not, and you never will.

"Now I am like (if I may so instance it) the python—indolent and lethargic; satisfied during the summer months to get what I can, and when the first cold blasts come along, to creep to the nearest haven and sleep until the sun returns once more to warm me into life. I think we are all more or less so.

"But if anything was required to rouse me from lethargy, to feel, like the python, that you must endeavour to *crush*, it is the fact that during my week's sojourn in this city, one well-known hotel (the Waterloo) has had to close its doors, another is about to do so, and a third, without a doubt one of the oldest established and best in the whole of Lancashire, is rumoured to be contemplating doing so in October. On a week-end trip to London last week I found that two of my favourite hostelries (inns, pubs. or whatever you like to call them) had been compelled to close for the same reason, *i.e.*, the new Licensing duties.

"Wherever you go it is the same tale. Distilleries, breweries, maltsters, hotels and all kindred trades closing, closing, closing. Naturally, the reflex must be upon our agriculturists, and God only knows where the end will be.

"You have gone to the House with *your* ideas, and what do they do? Listen to you with placid contentment and ignore all that you say. Both sides, Tory and Liberal, consider you a thorn in their skin; but at the same time they apply the unction of 'forgetfulness.'

"In one of your issues of JOHN BULL some while back I remember reading a reference to F. E. Smith in which you said that if only he would reserve his energies for great occasions, he would rise to a great position—or words to that effect.

"Well, now, you have got to take exactly the inverse ratio as applying to yourself. You have got all the ideas and in outside life you have shown yourself very capable, very capable indeed; but you have got to take the bit between your teeth just as Disraeli did, and absolutely defy any outsider to reach the winning post before you do.

"Criticise on every possible occasion when you have the opportunity, and when you have the trump card up your sleeve, criticise with asperity—even acerbity.

"The country is looking for a *man*; it doesn't care a damn whether he is Tory, Liberal, Socialist or what—as long as he is a *man*. We don't want a Boulanger.

"Now, it is not for me to put ideas into your head, but if I may be allowed to suggest anything, I would have gone a step further than you did in reference to taxing the accessories to racing.

"Although the world is undergoing different phases every day, don't you think that as for the moment we possess the most valuable breeding stock (horse) in the world, an *ad valorem* tax could with safety be placed upon *every* animal *leaving* this country? The tax to be on a scale similar to the death duties.

"On the Veto question, or in other words, the Constitution of the Second Chamber, surely a way out of the difficulty could be found by creating a truly *Imperial* House, composed of say—

2-7ths representatives elected by the Lords.
2-7ths representatives elected by the Constituencies.
2-7ths representatives elected by Dominions over the Sea.
1-7th representatives elected by the Indian Government.

"Let this House be elected for *seven* years, and it seems to me you not only have the solution of the Constitutional difficulty, but have drawn into closer relationship our Colonies and Dependencies.

"I have detained you at great length, and my only excuse is the observing of the havoc caused by the last Budget. We have yet to see its full effects."

DIVINE SERVICE.

BY NORMAN TIPTAFT.

A year or so ago the inhabitants of a large town in the Midlands decided to change their town into a city. At that time the death-rate among the juvenile population of a certain area during the first year of their existence was 331 per 1,000. Since the town has become a city, that death-rate remains the same, but the edifice formerly known as Saint Somebody's Church has become Saint Somebody's Cathedral. The town is now a city. The Cathedral has added dignity, respectability and a decidedly religious atmosphere to it. The former townsmen are now citizens, the former chief citizen's title has been altered from Mayor to Lord Mayor. The former death-rate among the infantile—but I think I mentioned that before, and really it is not of such trivial matters that I wish to write. I am merely desirous of calling attention to a great ceremony which takes place not in this particular city only, but in many cities and towns and villages. The only reason I have chosen this particular one is that I know it so well. I know its cathedral and the pathway which runs through the old burying ground, past the cathedral door and on into a busy street. On that pathway and near to the door of the cathedral, there is usually to be found an old woman seated on a camp-stool reading a Bible—she is blind. I suppose she gets a good living at it—beggars provided they are either blind or lame, or even if they only look miserable, can, so I am informed, make a good living anywhere. A little way past where the old blind woman usually sits is a seat, and on that seat there always used to be, until quite recently, the ghastliest framework of a man that I have ever seen. No matter what the weather was like, there he sat, very white, always very still. I have seen him there in a heavy snow-storm, his head bent a little more than usual, but no sign that he was conscious of anything out of the ordinary. He never wore an overcoat when the cathedral was only a church, now it is a cathedral—I don't know. He has gone. And then on this same pathway you will always meet the match merchants, girls and boys, anything from seven years old to women with babies in their arms. They vary only slightly in the quality of their dress, it is all poor, all threadbare, all miserable. Round this cathedral from early morning to late at night these people are there. They seem to live on that pathway. No night is too cold, no storm too fierce to drive them from it.

But they don't matter. The whole purpose of this article was to tell of a magnificent ceremony that takes place O ever so often in the Cathedral. It is called "Divine Service." It's great. I have been. The music is grand. The voices of the beautifully-trained choir one might imagine sound something like that choir which chants eternally on the shores of the crystal seal. The intonation of the curate is perfect. The sermon is in the best of taste.

Through the stained-glass windows comes the requisite dim religious light. The congregation is well dressed, is devout; everything that can minister to the æsthetic taste is there. Ah! Divine Service is a grand thing! I shall never forget it, just that one time that I went to—how do you say it?—to perform Divine Service, or is it to see Divine Service performed? The low echo of the Benediction had died away, and we found ourselves outside. In the distance I saw my old friend on the seat pale and still; by him two or three hungry-looking kiddies selling matches. Divine Service had been performed. As I passed the old blind woman I listened for a second, slowly, painfully, with a half sigh came the words, "Give *us* this day our daily bread."

LAW GUARANTEE AND TRUST SOCIETY.

MR. H. J. RONALD SERVES HIS WRIT.

We have now received a writ, issued at the instance of Mr. H. J. Ronald, claiming damages for libel in respect of the article which appeared in our issue of July 16th, and we hope we shall not be guilty of Contempt of Court in expressing the opinion that, whatever the result of the case, the proceedings should be of considerable public interest.

WHAT IS YOUR NUMBER?

See Page iii. of Cover.

WOLVERHAMPTON BREWERY AND ITS EMPLOYÉS.

THE MANAGING DIRECTOR'S REPLY.

In reference to our recent paragraph under this heading, the managing director of the Wolverhampton and Dudley Breweries writes that the information given us is untrue, as of the 171 managers employed by the Company only two are under notice at the present time, and but 24 have been given notice of dismissal during the last six months—the majority of these being consequent upon change of ownership.

Presuming that our remarks refer to two small houses in the Stourbridge district, he sends the original agreements between the Company and the managers, by which the wages are fixed at 22s. 6d. and 25s. per week respectively, being 10s. in each case more than the sums named in our paragraph. In addition, the managers have their rent, rates, taxes, lighting and firing free. The gross receipts from the houses during the last six months averaged £7 15s. and £6 5s. 4d. per week respectively—so the company contend that, in the circumstances, the wages paid were ample. The managers of small houses are not debarred from obtaining other employment.

On the other hand, a Wolverhampton reader tells us that our statements are only too true. He himself "got the sack" because he was receiving too much money—15s. a week—for a fully licensed house in a busy thoroughfare, out of which amount he had to find all cleaning utensils and even soda to wash out the beer pipes. He asserts that the manager of one of the Company's Wolverhampton houses gets 7s. 6d. a week and does other work to keep his wife. In another—fully licensed—the manager gets 10s., and has to take in lodgers. For managing one with three smoke-rooms, lounge, 2-tabled billiard room, stabling, and providing a daily "ordinary," the manager gets 15s. a week; the husband keeps things going by travelling for the Company. He says he can tell us of dozens of other similar cases.

A "COMPANION GUIDE" TRAP.

SIDELIGHT ON ITS PERSONNEL.

Last week we promised our readers further particulars with reference to a person who had been posing as "Deane and Dawson," at 4, Duke Street, Charing Cross, who had been making endeavours to obtain the sum of £30 from a reader of JOHN BULL.

The following report from the *Morning Advertiser* of July 22nd, relates to the man we have reason to believe is the alleged "Deane and Dawson"—

> H. Hardie, 28, a waiter, of Lambeth, was charged, before Mr. d'Eyncourt, with stealing a trunk and contents from the platform of the Great Northern Railway Company, King's Cross.
>
> "This is the man," said a detective-sergeant, "who left his clothing on the Brighton beach and then claimed £1,000 insurance money."
>
> The evidence in this case was that he was seen to scratch at a label on a trunk and then fasten another label on. A letter was afterwards received by the railway company asking for the trunk to be sent to the writer. In the opinion of Chief Inspector Warder the handwriting of the label and the letter was the same.
>
> A second charge of stealing a bag, value £33, from the Great Western Railway Company at Paddington was preferred.
>
> The case was committed for trial.

Verb. sap.—for the present.

THE supply of good pianos is effected by Messrs. Moore and Moore, of 59, New Oxford Street, on a sound basis. Seventy years' manufacturing high grade pianos has not alone created for them a great business, but has placed pianos made by British workmen on the plane where they rightfully belong—without a superior in the whole world. A firm so reliable and so intensely British is certainly entitled to the support of the readers of JOHN BULL.

What is Your Number?

See Page iii. of Cover.

JOHN BULL'S WRESTLING MATCH.

GAMA AND ZBYSCO MATCHED AT LAST.

We are pleased to state that all arrangements have now been made for a catch-as-catch-can match between these famous wrestlers, to take place early in September, probably at the Stadium, Shepherd's Bush. As to this we shall make a definite announcement next week.

It was originally intended that Gama should back himself to secure a certain number of throws within an hour. Upon consideration, however, it has been decided that such a contest would not have the same attraction for the public, whilst leaving the question of who was the better man of the two still open, it might lead to other features of an undesirable character. This view having been put before the two contestants they at once agreed that the match should be an out-and-out one to a finish—the best of three throws to decide.

As soon as this contest is over we shall do our best to arrange another match with the winner, being careful to secure as far as humanly possible that each match shall be a *bonâ fide* sporting event, free from any of the characteristics which of recent years have tended to discredit the old British sport of wrestling.

The following are the articles which have been signed:—

> AN AGREEMENT entered into the 25th day of July, 1910, between ZBYSCO and GAMA for a wrestling match (Catch-as-catch-can), to take place the first week in September at the Stadium, Shepherd's Bush, or some other place to be mutually agreed upon, the best of three throws for a stake of £250 and a Belt to be presented by the Proprietors of JOHN BULL, and known as the John Bull Belt, such Belt being held by the winner of the match, and to become his absolute property in the event of his winning three consecutive matches arranged by the Proprietors of JOHN BULL under similar conditions to those governing the present match.
>
> The match to be under *Sporting Chronicle* rules, the Referee being Mr. Jack Smith.
>
> The gate to be divided as follows:—70 per cent. to the winner, and 30 per cent. to the loser.
>
> (Signed) ZBYSCO.
> " GAMA.

Prior to this match, Gama will be seen in a contest with Dr. Rowler, and our readers will, therefore, have an opportunity of witnessing his prowess. If by any chance he should be beaten, Dr. Rowler will be invited to take his place. Gama, however, ridicules the idea of defeat.

"AN EARL'S COURT RAMP."

GROWING SUSPICION AMONGST SHAREHOLDERS.

The replies from Mr. Javal, at the recent meeting were so unsatisfactory, and, we are bound to say, so misleading, that they left the general impression that there is some kind of undisclosed understanding between the present directors and the "Syndicate," either in regard to their whole or partial retention upon the directorate, or the satisfaction of their personal "claims," or otherwise. It is imperative that this matter should be cleared up.

Mr. Javal was apparently unable to give any satisfactory reply as to whom he and his colleagues are negotiating with, or as to the constitution and resources of the proposed new company. "So long as the District Railway were satisfied, the present company had to be satisfied." That was the gravamen of his speech. As, however, the District Railway Company only care about getting their rent, and to have a certain number of people brought to the place, they have no concern whatever as to whether the present shareholders are left out in the cold or not.

Mr. Kiralfy's proposition was a most generous one, offering, provided that the present directors retire, to let the present shareholders remain in exactly their present position, and to advance money up to £25,000 on debentures, to enable the company to carry on business. After all, it was Mr. Kiralfy who made a success of the Earl's Court Exhibition, after it had been a complete failure previous to 1895, and we are satisfied that he, if anybody, can alone make it a success again, especially now that he has so firmly established the Shepherd's Bush Exhibition, that it has come to stay as one of London's great permanent institutions. We do not say that, even under his management, there is a fortune awaiting the shareholders, but we *do* say that under the proposed scheme of the Directors the whole of their money would be irretrievably lost.

SUDBURY HEIGHTS

Only thirty minutes from the heart of London

You may OWN a Home Like This for the money you now pay for rent—or a Plot at Sudbury Heights for 10/- per month.

A PLOT AT SUDBURY HEIGHTS
Offers an opportunity for a Home or Investment which you cannot afford to cast aside.

PRICE.
£30 per plot and upwards.

TERMS
£3 down, the balance in Instalments of 10/- per month, without interest.

TITLE
Title guaranteed Freehold.

SPECIAL FEATURES
NO INTEREST. NO TAXES. NO TITHES. NO RESTRICTIONS. FREE CONVEYANCES. FREE Roads and Improvements.

No Interest

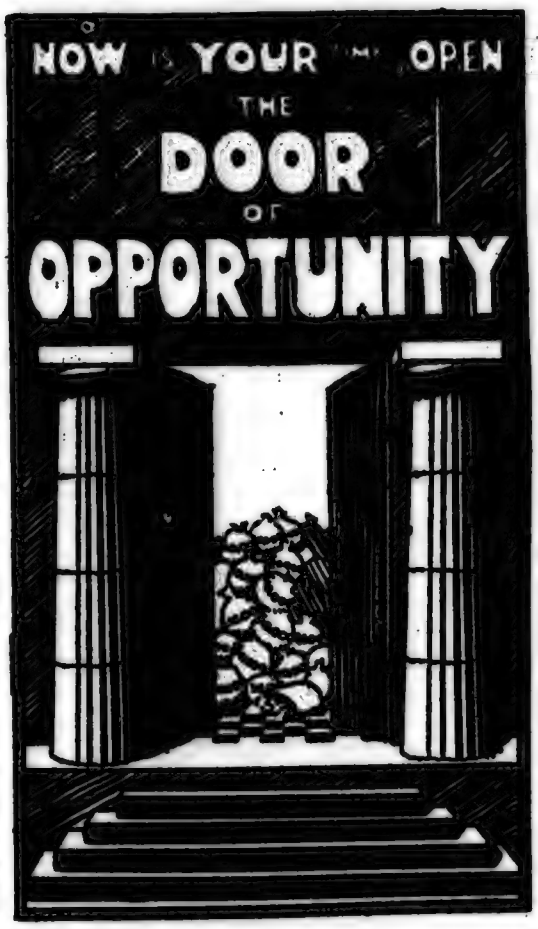
By showing a copy of this advertisement to one of our Agents on the Estate you will have your return fare paid.

To reach SUDBURY HEIGHTS take the District Railway from the Mansion House and all intermediate City Stations to Sudbury Hill Station, which immediately adjoins the Estate. The Station of Sudbury and Harrow Road on the Great Central Railway is adjacent to Sudbury Heights, and may be reached in 17 minutes from Marylebone. There is also a splendid service of L.C.C. Electric Trams running through Sudbury Heights in connection with omnibus routes from all parts of the Metropolis.

Visitors are requested to book to SUDBURY HILL STATION, via the District Railway.

IMPROVEMENTS

SUDBURY HEIGHTS will be improved Free of all Cost to purchasers, with park-like roads, electric light, etc., and the entire property will be ornamented with rose bushes, fruit trees, etc. £3 secures the Freehold of a plot at SUDBURY HEIGHTS. 10/- per month keeps it going, and in a few years pays for it.



No Legal Costs

A discount of Five per cent. will be allowed on all lots reserved before August 31st, 1910.

FREE TRIP TO LONDON

As a guarantee of good faith to purchasers who reside at a greater distance than fifty miles from London, we will agree to pay your return railway fare from any part of the United Kingdom, not exceeding £5. We will credit the full amount on the purchase price of plots if you buy, or refund same in cash, with five per cent. interest if you find we have misrepresented our property, provided only that you inspect your purchase within one year from the time you buy.

FREE INSURANCE IN CASE OF DEATH

We practically insure the life of every customer for the full amount of his purchase. Let us explain. With every lot sold by us on monthly instalments we give a contract which provides (according to the terms of the contract) either for the return of the money paid or a free deed to the property should death occur before payments are completed.

The following figures will give some idea of the magnificent results already obtained by this Company at Eastcote, Middlesex:—

OPENED FOR SALE—August 21st, 1909.

SOLD TO DATE—Six Sections (976 plots to 465 purchasers for an aggregate value amounting to a sum exceeding £51,500).

Some of our early purchasers have already made 250 per cent. upon their original investments (names on application).

The opening days for the Sale of the First Section of this Estate will be July 30th and 31st, August 1st, and Free Luncheon and Return Fares will be provided for all Visitors to the property every Saturday and Sunday.

CUT THIS OUT AND POST IT TO-DAY

For full particulars, free railway tickets, plans, views, etc., of this property tear off this coupon and forward same to

THE BRITISH FREEHOLD INVESTMENTS SYNDICATE No 3.

The Largest Suburban Land Developers in the World

14-16 Cockspur Street, Pall Mall, S.W.

Name .....

Address .....

John Bull

SUICIDE.

By Jim Crow.

[Mr. James Crow is our Licensed Crank. A brilliant exponent of unconventional ideas—invariably distorted and lacking in perspective; cynical and epigrammatic in expression—he is a journalistic cat amongst the pigeons. We accept no responsibility for his opinions—or his life.]

All the moralists, wiseacres, preachers, insurance agents and maiden aunts persistently proclaim that suicide is cowardly. Now, I can think of a hundred and one reasons for deprecating the practice, but I cannot for the life of me conceive where the cowardice comes in. I should have thought it required a bit of nerve to cut your own throat, or shoot yourself in the mouth, or throw yourself over a precipice, or consume strychnine. But no, it is cowardly because, forsooth, you have not the courage to live.

The Boldness of Bores.

Such taunts about courage are silly. A man may dare me to break Lloyd George's window, or drink a bucket of water, or submit to the bites of tsetse flies. But if I see no advantage to be gained by any of those courses, I feel justified in sticking to light claret. No doubt it is difficult for some persons to resign themselves to life. They know they are bores, they suffer from nerves, they have been stung by bees, or they missed the rubber boom. How very simple to seek Nirvana! How very bold to persist in cumbering the ground!

Dwarf Despair.

I have often wondered what I should do if I suddenly realised that I was a failure. I might go and live in the deserts of Arabia, or found a harem, or write erotic novels. But having gone through some such rest-cure, I should return like a giant refreshed and begin my battles anew. After all, despair is only a transitory emotion, often a mere affection of the liver. It can be cured by fresh air and exercise, sleep and beef steak. Or else it is a febrile hallucination, a mad caricature of modesty. That dull dreamer, John Bunyan, wrote of "Giant Despair," but there is nothing gigantic about weakness. We need only pull ourselves together and the wretch flees at the first onslaught.

The Dumps of Dishonour.

Someone will doubtless retort that it is all very well to minimise the ordinary causes of despair, such as unrequited love, or miscalculations about bulls and bears, or the menace of incurable disease. Another woman may prove more responsive; the slump will inevitably be succeeded by a boom; the doctor has probably made a mistake. But how about lost honour? Does not that make suicide inevitable? That is a fine old-fashioned sentiment and very effective in a romance. But how often do you find a serious case occur? Most people either have a keen sense of honour or else attach no particular importance to the phrase. Those who think much about honour usually take very good care to retain it. Honour is not like a hat-pin or an umbrella to be left about in a cab. And those who do not regard it as a religion are unlikely to commit suicide when it disappears. It is only in fiction that a man cuts his throat because a maiden aunt has committed arson or bigamy, and brought disgrace on the family tree.

Crow's Confidence.

The more I reflect upon the subject, the less easy do I find it to conceive an event which could possibly drive me to kill myself. I know this will be disappointing news to many of my readers, but it is just as well to be frank. Perhaps if I were about to be tortured by Chinese I might make away with myself to spite my enemies. That, however, would not be suicide. It would rather be a choice of the lesser evil, like preferring a butt of malmsey to a hangman's rope. Again, if I were sentenced to a long term of penal servitude, I might choose death instead, though I should probably continue to hope for the establishment of my innocence. In any other case of misfortune I should be content to seek consolation in religion and philosophy.

Fashions in Felo-de-se.

Now comes a very difficult question. Suppose one of my readers has firmly determined to shuffle off this mortal coil. What am I to advise him about ways and means? I am told that hanging affords many delicious sensations, but there are degrading associations about the process. It is not a gentleman's death. Asphyxiation by charcoal has many adherents and is said to be soothing, but it is not certain in its action. Unless all ventilation be impeded, you run the risk of waking up with a violent headache, and that is a bore. The river is romantic, but some fool might have the heroism to pull you out, or you might suddenly develop unsuspected powers of natation. I might suggest that you should rid the world of some human monster and give yourself up to the minions of the law. That would have the advantage of destroying two beasts by one process. But I mistrust the choice of your victim, and you might not find time to consult me. Besides, in these maudlin days, you would probably be reprieved.

The Etiquette of Self-Destruction.

Of course, if you are a decent-minded suicide, you will give as little trouble as possible. You won't create a panic by shooting yourself in the crowd at the Coronation. Nor will you cut your throat in church and give the Bishop all the bother of re-consecration. In fact, you will make a clean job of it. And the cleanest job is that which attracts least attention. If possible, convey the impression that your death is an accident. Then the coroner's jury will certainly allow you Christian burial. But don't be too ingenious, or you will give rise to a mystery—perhaps even expose some unfortunate person to accusations of murder.

No Punishment Fits this Crime.

It is strange to note how public opinion has chopped and changed with regard to suicide. Homer, the Bible and the Japanese seem to have regarded the practice as the heroic corollary to misfortune. You fell on your sword and bards set your epitaph to music. And this attitude lasted right away down to the Middle Ages, when the Church took up the opposite point of view. The difficulty about punishing the new-made crime of suicide was obvious. The ingenuity of civilised man has not devised a punishment greater than death, and the suicide has already inflicted that upon himself. To drive a stake through a corpse and bury it where four cross roads meet sounds very dramatic, but it is not often a deterrent. Most of us care very little how or where we are buried. And to punish attempts at suicide is sillier still, for the man who means business takes care that his attempt shall succeed.

The Sanity of Suicide.

We claim to be wiser than our forefathers, but I think we are remarkably inept to retain the old superstition on our statute-book and rob it of all significance by a subterfuge. Either abolish the penalties for *felo-de-se*, or else enforce them. Do not compel jurymen to be false to their oaths and assume that people only kill themselves when they are temporarily insane. I assure you that their suicide is often the sanest act in their lives.

The Suicide of the Soul.

Far more dangerous and reprehensible is the living suicide of persons who destroy their happiness by folly; who wreck careers and blight homes by preferring whisky to old ale; who endanger an empire by bowing to Birmingham or wriggling with Roberts; who suffer kill-joys gladly and despise the gifts of the gods. No two of us are agreed about the nature of Heaven in a future state, but we have all witnessed the propagation of hell upon earth.

WHAT FACTORY?

From a reader:—

While visiting a large bottling establishment in the North of England recently, I was very much astonished to see there a process in vogue which, to my mind, if not tending towards the general decline of the community, from a health point of view, was certainly not in conformity with the best sanitary methods. Two or three little lads were busy working at a little ingenious device by which rubber rings are put upon bottle stoppers, but instead of taking them from the water in which they were washed, one by one, and putting them upon the stoppers direct, they filled their mouths with the rubber rings after the style of a shoemaker with nails, and extracted them therefrom one by one direct to the stopper, being possibly the more natural and therefore quicker method. Apart altogether from the filthy habit, is there not a grave risk of infection here?

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What have you got to show for your holiday last year? Probably nothing! This year let there be no regrets.

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Seven sample Kodak snapshots, and a copy of our handsome booklet "Some Pleasures of Kodaking," will be sent post free to any holiday-maker who mentions John Bull of July 30th, 1910. Address:

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57-61, Clerkenwell Road, London, E.C.

TALKS WITH A TRAMP.

III.—ROBINSON.

By MILWARD ELLIS.

He met the Tramp at midnight, wandering over one of the bridges. His name doesn't matter; we'll call him Robinson. It's a common name, and there are many like him. You may say it was strange for the Tramp to be out, but he was there on business—studying his art from Nature's handiwork. That's why he picked up with Robinson.

There was nothing counterfeit about Robinson, he was the natural product. Pinched features and slouching gait; threadbare coat fastened over a cotton shirt; face set in the dull, hopeless cast of the broken-spirited—God! what matters it to describe in lifeless words that what never a day can pass but we may see, outlined with the awful crudeness of reality.

"Perishin' cold wind, mate, ain't it?" said the Tramp, with an appropriate shiver, though his thick underclothing kept him comfortably warm.

"You're right 'nough, guv'nor," muttered the other. "It's always cold when you 'av'n't got the energy to keep yer warm."

"'Ad no grub, eh?" enquired the Tramp.

"Grub! Can you pick it up in the streets?"

"Well, I ain't done so bad as it 'appens," returned the Tramp. "If corfee'll do yer I'll stand a bit."

"Corfee do me!" cried Robinson. "Show us the mug!"

They turned and slouched along to a coffee-stall on the south side. The Tramp produced some coppers.

"Give 'im a feed," he said to the stallkeeper.

"Bloomin' Roffschild," grunted his companion, swallowing hot coffee. The conversation ended for a time while Robinson temporarily adjourned to Paradise. He came back to earth after a final draught of coffee and eyed the Tramp reflectively.

"Good fer a smoke?" he muttered. The Tramp nodded and the bar-keeper obliged.

"Now I'm ready for yer," said Robinson with an air of finality, after the Tramp "stood Sam." "Anyfink from robbery wi' vi'lence to the converted drunk line. What d'yer want?"

"Well, fust of all, mate, 'ow d'yer come ter this position?"

"Soon told. Lorst me job, pawned me goods and clo'es, tramped the country for work and finished up like' this. Now it's beg or steal, and I can't do neither. There's one thing left—savvy?"

The Tramp nodded. "Why not try the Labour Exchanges?" he suggested.

Robinson cursed. "You don't know what you're talking of: you try 'em and you'll be wiser. It's like this: I was a bit independent in me work—always was that way from a kid. Then the boss found 'e could get blokes from the Exchanges cheaper than me.

"Well, there was another success at the local Exchange when I came out. 'Nother vacancy filled—*mine!*' That showed in the returns. I was looking fer more work—that didn't. They've never done nothink but swop jobs from the start. Find work! Did yer ever know employers what couldn't get men? Did yer ever see a notice hup 'More 'Ands Wanted' wivout a crowd round it? And that before the Exchanges, mind yer.

"Better organisation they call it. So it is, fer the bosses. Men come cheaper when they've seen their families starving on charity for a few months. I don't blame 'em now I've learnt what it's like to be 'alf-starved in reach of plenty."

"Then yer recken they're no bloomin' good?" asked the Tramp.

"No! and never can be no (qualified) good," said Robinson, savagely. "But they serve their purpose—they make a show. An' fools talk about their success, about the jobs they've filled. Yes, an' it's the likes o' me what's 'elped 'em, an' there's thousands ov us, every bloke shoved into work shoves another out! 'Cause why? 'Cause they never made no jobs to fill, 'cept their own bloomin' officials."

"True enough," rather bitterly to himself, muttered the Tramp. "Show's the thing nowadays, value never counts. With me as everything. We hide our dirt with a show of linen, our evil with a mask of good. Ignorance apes wisdom in our offices of State and cheats the people with her sham reforms."

THE MUSICAL COSTER.

CLASSES FOR SINGING, VOICE PRODUCTION AND GESTURE
Beautiful voice production, that
I daresay not so good as usual
Ready and like Clinkers
Rotten top boles

WITH A VIEW TO ENCOURAGING A LOVE OF MUSIC AMONG COSTERS, SOME AMIABLE PERSON HAS SUGGESTED THAT THE LONDON COUNTY COUNCIL SHOULD INSTITUTE SPECIAL CLASSES FOR VOICE PRODUCTION AND SINGING.

THE TRUE HISTORY

of a System that you have all heard about.

In the early ages, years and years ago—in fact, before the halfpenny papers taught us the art of civilisation, and the rubber boom was only three weeks old, there lived a great criminal, who traded as a Cabinet Minister. He was not the present day style of criminal who made his sole living by criming, but he added to his pocket money by drawing commission on new taxes and extortions that he invented, partly for amusement and partly from bad manners. He lived in a fishing village in a land called Wales, and he had the habit of spouting—hence the name Whale to the fish that does ditto.

Now, to cut a long story short, as the Revising Barrister does when you are getting the best of the argument, and are proving that you are assessed at too much Income Tax, this man who pinched ale from the poor beer drinkers hit on a very fine idea for getting quite a lot of money in order to buy battleships, and also some nice new boxes to put unclaimed bank balances in. So in order to reward this true patriot the other conspirators, who hung out their signs at the Big Ben Hotel, near the Free Trade Soup Kitchen, decided to let him have any new tax that he could invent entirely for himself. Now, he fell very ill of the illness of itching of the palms of the hands, and his temper suffered. However, after some more factories had been shut up, and some more unemployed men had been thrown on the streets, he seemed to liven up, and to think that life was still well worth living. He thereon devised a scheme whereby many monies might be gained. This brilliant idea was to tax at fifty per cent. all money that was paid for Furnitures for the Home during the rest of the year—that would mean all the Christmas Furnitures would be double price. However, you have heard of the Saint George who killed the Dragon; you can see his picture on some of the rarer pieces of money—that is if you have any. Well, he had a brother who had a Furniture Shop, and gave many Bargains, and this brother, who had a head with much brains therein, thought and thought and thought. After much thinking and attacks of brain waves and nut spasms and other things that make the brain whirl and the hair drop out, this Furniture Man had an idea. Don't think that this was the only idea that he had, but this was an extra special one.

He decided to sell his Furniture and to spread the payments over three years, so that the tax on the money paid during the year would only be one thirty-sixth part of what the Cabinet Minister expected, and this terrible man would not be able to rob the public as he thought. The results were fine; the Cabinet Minister caught disappointment of the brain and resigned in a huff. So all was merry and bright again. And this is the true (more or less) beginning of the Gradual Payment System.

As the public well know, the Midland Furnishing Co., Ltd., are constant exhibitors at the principal exhibitions throughout the country, notably each year at the Ideal Home Exhibition at Olympia. There the public have had an opportunity of seeing for themselves, without having to visit the different shops, what are the real differences in the goods of the Midland Furnishing Company and those of the other firms that supply goods on the gradual-payment system.

The three great qualities that the Midland Furnishing Company always claim for their goods are the following: First-class design, A1 manufacture, and moderation in cost. What more could the purchaser want? The stock that these people keep is wonderful—anything that the most fastidious purchaser could possibly desire is there. Only one class they do not keep, and that is rubbish. Every article that they sell is recommended, and we can confidently say is fair value. It is well known that there are many firms selling goods on the gradual-payment system that would not bear a very careful examination, and unhappily these firms are so well protected by the law of libel that it is impossible to give the names of the culprits. However, if our readers deal with the Midland Furnishing Co., Ltd., they can rest quite satisfied that they will be receiving fair value for anything that they spend, whether the amount is large or small.

Everything is marked at a price that will bear comparison with those of any other firm, and don't forget that all prices are shown in plain figures.

Without boasting, the Midland Furnishing Company claim that they have the finest selection of genuine second-hand furniture in the country, marked at prices that are positively astonishing. They have men out all over the country constantly buying for them. As well as secondhand goods, they place, in the same department, all goods that have become slightly stock-soiled. These are also reduced to the same wonderfully low scale. They issue a special booklet of all these goods that will repay an intending purchaser to send for. It is surprising what money can be saved if the buyer knows where to place his order.

Now a few words about the firm's system of business, and under what terms they do their immense turnover.

Every article that they sell can be obtained on their well-known gradual-payment system, without any extra charge whatsoever for credit. The purchaser selects his goods from the plain tickets remember, and then, as he requests, the payments are extended over one, two, or three years without one halfpenny interest or any extra charge whatsoever being added. No deposit is required. Should the customer prefer to pay cash he is allowed a discount of 5 per cent. The firm pay the fare to town of a customer who lives in the country, providing that he spends the sum of £30 with them, cash or credit. All goods in the country are packed free and carriage paid, and in the suburban area the firm deliver free in their own plain vans. Carpets and linos are planned and laid free.

The firm issue a beautiful catalogue, which is sent post free upon application. If you really want to furnish well and cheaply you cannot do better than write to them for a copy, or, better still, if you live in town, call in at their showrooms, No. 15, 17, 19, 21, 23, Southampton Row, Holborn, W.C. Just say that "John Bull" sent you. You will not be pressed to buy.—[Advt.]

THE LOSS OF THE "WARATAH."

EVIDENCE OF SAILORS.—"A LAZY HANG-OVER."

Several of our readers interested in the fate of the *Waratah* ask what progress is being made with the Board of Trade enquiry. As the enquiry has hitherto been held abroad, and is only preliminary, it has not been easy to say much about it, but we have before us the report of evidence taken in Australia, to which it may be useful to direct attention. Acting under instructions from the Controller-General of Customs, the Australian Federal Crown Solicitor has made enquiry into the condition of the *Waratah* while in Australian waters, her general behaviour at sea, and the views held by passengers and members of the crew who left the vessel in Australia. Evidence was taken on affidavit in Sydney, Melbourne, and Adelaide, and those affidavits will be forwarded to the Board of Trade. When the evidence of unloading and loading at Durban is also before the Board, we shall know what cargo exactly the vessel carried when she left Dur ban.

Among the witnesses who gave evidence was Edward Pischler, formerly A.B. on the *Waratah*. He left the vessel in Sydney on June 15th last. He says that before leaving London several seamen advised him not to make the trip, as she would "never reach Las Palmas." When off Gravesend, the Board of Trade made an inspection of the boats, but examined only two out of 16. "None of them carried provisions. When painting on the inside the paint leaked through. Mr. Owen, the chief officer, told the crew to be careful and not step too hard on the bottom. There was boat drill once a week, but all that was done was to unloosen the fastenings of the covering of the boats and then put them on again. . . . In the boat drill they never lifted the boats off the chocks. In Sydney, it took 13 men by ropes and blocks to lift No. 6 boat off the chocks, and then they had to get a steam winch to swing the davits out. The davits had become rusted." At Adelaide he had attempted to paint two of the aft boats. One of them was "so soft and rotten that it would not take the paint." He could have "put his hand through the wood at the bottom of the boat." Pischler went on to describe the rolling of the vessel in the Bay of Biscay. "She was rolling very badly. An ordinary boat took a steady roll, but the *Waratah* went over on one side and did not seem to be able to recover herself at once, but stayed there for quite an appreciable time. Then she would come back slowly, and roll over on the other side, and she stayed there in the same way for a time before again recovering herself."

Nicholas Sharpe, A.B., said that at the East India Docks about April 17th of last year he asked Mr. Owen for employment. Mr. Owen said, "I'll take your name, but if you can get anything else before the 20th take it, because this ship will be a coffin for somebody." Witness could not get another ship, so joined the *Waratah*. Witness heard the chief officer say to the bo'sun, "These boats will be d—d little use to save lives in." While the men were painting No. 2 boat, the chief officer, pointing to the seats, said, "Don't put too much weight on them, as they might carry away." Witness was kneeling on the seat at the time. Witness got his discharge in Sydney on the ground of sickness. He did not want to go back on the *Waratah*, as he thought she was unseaworthy. Before leaving London several seamen told him he was a fool to go on, as she was top-heavy. In rolling the vessel had what he called a "lazy hang-over."

Mr. John Latimer, shipping clerk, of North Sydney, said that on January 8th, he was tallying the cargo on the Sydney Wharf, and had a conversation with Mr. Henry, the second officer of the *Waratah*. In reply to a question as to how he liked his new ship, Mr. Henry said, "I don't like her at all. Between ourselves, I think she has a deck too many." When the ship was coming round from the builders' yard at Glasgow (or Belfast) to London to load for Australia, they "got caught in some heavy weather in the Channel, and she gave us a scare, because I thought she was going over on her broadside." Mr. Henry also said something about the *Waratah* being a difficult vessel to stow, and that she would "require a lot of dead weight in the 'tween decks to steady her."

This evidence goes far to confirm the opinion we have expressed from the first—that the *Waratah* was top-heavy—and we await with interest the full enquiry by the Board of Trade. Matters cannot be allowed to remain as they are.

"O.H. 179."

A PLEA FOR A TICKET-OF-LEAVE MAN.

The above are the letters and figures which identify Edmond O'Brien upon the Criminal Register. O'Brien was convicted for stealing and receiving and sentenced to five years' penal servitude. At the end of the fourth year, that is, in January last, he was released on ticket-of-leave. For some months he managed to get odd jobs, which kept him from starving. Some weeks ago, however, these jobs failed him, and there was nothing for it but the workhouse, so he went to Chelsea, being admitted on July 15th. On July 18th, he asked to be allowed to go out, as he expected a job with the Michelin Tyre Company, of Keppel Street, Chelsea. This, however, he failed to get, and returned to the workhouse, but they refused to have him back. He then went to the police-station, where the inspector on duty told him to wait till he had finished duty, at 2.30 a.m., and he would make matters right. O'Brien and the inspector then went to the workhouse, and the officer again refused to admit him. It was then 3 o'clock in the morning, and the inspector told him he could do nothing more for him. The following day, July 19th, O'Brien walked about trying in vain to get work, and with no money to obtain food. Late at night he went to a cabmen's shelter, and there they gave him a cup of coffee and a bit of bread, and advised him to go and tell his tale to John Bull. Well, he came here and told it and asked us what he could do. He was willing to do any sort of work if only it would give him a shelter, and something to eat. He pointed out that as matters stood he could do nothing but wander about, and that being a ticket-of-leave man the police might take him up at any moment for loitering and send him back to complete his term of penal servitude. As he finished his story the man broke down and cried like a child. We daresay he is a bad lot—God alone knows—but, bad or not, his record has been good since he came out of jail. He is eager for something to do, and yet he can get nothing, and even the workhouse doors are shut upon him. Can it be wondered at if this poor devil in his desperation commits some serious offence? for even jail is better than freedom under such conditions. When Pandora's box opened and all the blessings the gods had put there flew out save one, hope still remained, but what hope is there for this poor wretch? There is something rotten in the state of a society which brings a man to such a pass that if he is to live at all he must break the law

AN EXCISE MUDDLE.

TWO LICENCES FOR ONE DOG.

A Leicester gentleman, a Mr. Cart, on January 29th last took out a licence for his dog. Near this animal is kept another dog, belonging to a relative, a Mr. Scott. The licence for this dog having been lost, Mr. Scott obtained from the Borough Treasurer a certificate in the following form:—

> I understand that the Dog Licence taken out by you on May 12th last has been lost. We cannot issue a copy of the Licence, because these Licences are issued only by the Postal Authorities, but this letter should suffice to assure any officer requiring production of the Licence that it was duly taken out at the Wharf Street Post Office on May 12th, 1910, and bore the number A.E. 061316.

On June 11th last, however, Mr. Cart was summoned "for keeping a dog without a licence." He produced his licence for his own animal and explained the facts regarding the other, but was fined 15s. and costs. The Home Office refuses to interfere!

LUNACY LAW REFORM.

We are glad to learn that there was a very successful meeting under the auspices of Dr. Forbes Winslow at the Caxton Hall the other day to discuss the desirability of Lunacy Law Reform. The hall was crowded, and many people were unable to gain admittance. The resolutions dealt chiefly with the certification of lunatics, hospitals for acute cases, magisterial examination previous to admission, and restrictions as regard asylum committees, with suggestions for ensuring that persons detained in asylums shall not be prohibited, as now, from seeing other relatives than those to whom they owe their incarceration.

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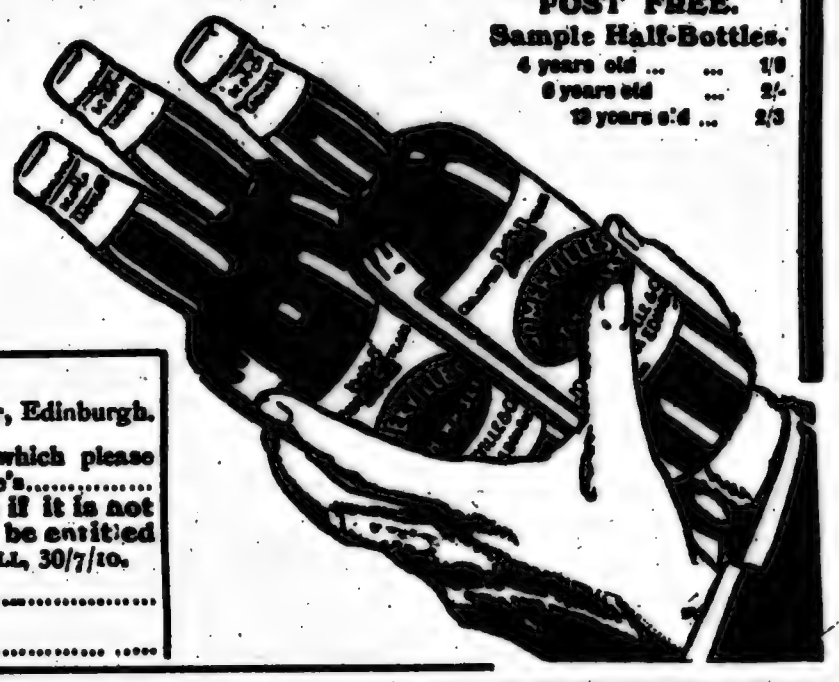

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OPEN LETTERS, POSTCARDS AND TELEGRAMS.

To the Right Hon. Winston Churchill.

DEAR WINSTON,—We may not have a Business Government, but we have a busy Home Secretary. It was ingenious of you to remember that prison reformers always go down to history as philanthropists. But why make the restriction that good gaol-birds shall read only books which do not deal with current events? If we want to turn them into good citizens, we ought above all things to interest them in what is going on in the world. Poetry and history are all very well, but as an index to morals, nothing can beat JOHN BULL.

To the Chairman, House Committee, Cottage Hospital, Dartmouth.

MY DEAR SIR,—Anybody in particular in charge of the Dartmouth Cottage Hospital? I know it is run by public subscriptions and medical etiquette, but is there any common-sense, responsible person authorised to look after the patients and obtain medical attendance for them when they need it? Personally, you know, I think the patients get a lot too much medical etiquette, and if your committee are not careful they will get too few public subscriptions. A hospital where a patient suffering from severe intestinal obstruction is left unattended by a doctor for twenty-four hours, doesn't strike me as being much good to anybody on earth, however useful it may be for putting them on the road to heaven. A young man being seized with sudden and painful illness at a Kingswear hotel, the landlady summoned a Dr. Phillpots, who ordered the poor chap to be taken to your hospital while his mother was on her way to fetch a Dr. Soper from Dartmouth. Dr. Phillpots having heard that Dr. Soper had been sent for, regarded it as "Dr. Soper's case," and left instructions that if the patient got worse Dr. Soper was to be sent for. Dr. Soper, on the staff of the hospital, did not at once attend when urgently summoned because he "considered the case to have been Dr. Phillpots'," and "repudiated responsibility"; the lady who was acting as *locum tenens* for the matron of the hospital "thought the case was Dr. Soper's and did not consider it her duty as a matter of medical etiquette to send for another doctor"; and the patient was taken back to Kingswear, dying a quarter of an hour after Dr. Phillpots and a Dr. Harris saw him together! Once and for all understand sir, you and your colleagues, whoever they are, that there is no justification for the existence of a hospital in Dartmouth, or anywhere else, in which the medical staff and nurses elevate a mere farce of medical etiquette above the tragedy of human ills; and if you cannot obtain a staff able to accommodate their notions of etiquette to imperative claims of duty, then the sooner the doors are closed and the shutters put up the better. JOHN BULL.

To the Right Rev. the Lord Bishop of Carlisle.

MY LORD,—I observe that your lordship's application for "admission of articles" against the Rev. J. G. Lax, vicar of Stainmore, Kirkby Stephen, has been refused by Sir Lewis Dibdin, Auditor of the Chancery Court of York, by reason of your having brought the proceedings under the wrong statute. As the vicar, a married man, has involved his parish in grave scandal by his alleged discreditable conduct with Miss Rennison, a school teacher, I trust your lordship will lose no time in putting the proceedings against him on a correct legal basis, in order that if it is proved he is as lax in morals as he is in name, he may be relieved of the charge of other people's souls with as little further delay as possible. JOHN BULL.

To the Surveyor, District Council, Faversham.

SIR,—I notice you have been advertising for a road foreman under the auspices of the Council. "Must be honest, sober and trustworthy; able to take charge of the parishes of Buckland, Lynsted, Norton, Stone and Teynham; possess a wife; experienced in the management of highways; able to superintend work; keep accounts; provide his own bicycle"—all for 20s. a week, "paid fortnightly." Please let me know at your earliest convenience whether you have secured him; also whether you have required a substantial deposit, and a chartered accountant's certificate of proficiency in double entry.
JOHN BULL.

To the Chief Constable, Yarmouth.

SIR,—I notice that your officers have been busy of late, acting on the instructions of the Watch Committee, in prosecuting a number of small tradesmen who open shop on Sundays with the object of assisting them to pay the rates and other incidental expenses of their earthly existence. I also notice that various persons in the pay of the Corporation are engaged in Sunday trading, but that your officers have not officially observed them, and that you and the Town Clerk, the policeman on the beat, and the Watch Committee are putting obstacles in the way of anybody obtaining summonses against these official law-breakers. But, surely, if you prosecute for Sunday trading you ought to prosecute all round. The Mayor, sitting as magistrate, says "you have no instructions to shield the Corporation," and that you have as much right to prosecute the Corporation and their servants as any other offender. I am glad to see this dictum has gone home, and that that there are to be no more of these silly out-o'-date prosecutions and persecutions. Congratulations!
JOHN BULL.

To the Right Rev. the Lord Bishop of Hereford.

MY LORD,—It has long been a foolish fad of fond mothers to deprecate school-life. They want to keep their little boys tied to their apron-strings so that the temptations of the world, the flesh and the devil may be warded off as long as possible. I am sorry to find that your lordship has been endorsing this mischievous notion. Sooner or later, mamma's darling will have to come out into the open and face things as they are. Surely it is better that he should have a manly preparation and learn to take care of himself at an early age, instead of being pampered and coddled. Ignorance is not necessarily the mother of morality. Even if it were, even if what you call a "good home life" were the ideal training, it is not every parent who proves a better teacher than the average schoolmaster. I know you have been a schoolmaster, but you need not judge all schoolmasters by your own unfortunate experience. What molly-coddles the next generation would be if you had your way! JOHN BULL.

To the London Council of the United Protestant Societies.

GENTLEMEN,—I observe that you have decided upon active opposition to any alteration in the King's Declaration. I have no doubt you are a very godly company, and that you are animated by the sincerest motives. But have not you altogether misread the signs and the tokens in this matter? There is no anti-Catholic feeling of any bulk in England to-day; why should there be? From the highest positions in the State, in politics and in the Services, down to the rank and file, our Catholic fellow-citizens are playing an honourable, and in many cases a not inconspicuous part in our national and civic life. I am aware that your answer to all this is that you are attacking political Vaticanism and not Catholics. But that is exactly what the societies you represent do not do. I am quite prepared to admit after the Dreyfus and Ferrer cases that on the Continent clericalism is a foe to be fought. But we haven't, happily, got anything of the kind here. And if we had, you are not the people, and yours are not the methods, with which to fight it. Clericalism, as the democracies of Europe understand it and hate it, must be fought, if we ever have to fight it, from political motives by political methods, with political ends in view. You are a religious body, supporting the maintenance of a religious test for which no man of progressive mind can have any respect. It is hardly creditable to the bulk of Protestant citizens that you should take up your present attitude. Therefore, why not reconsider the matter? When there is any real danger to the State from clericalism you may depend upon me. JOHN BULL.

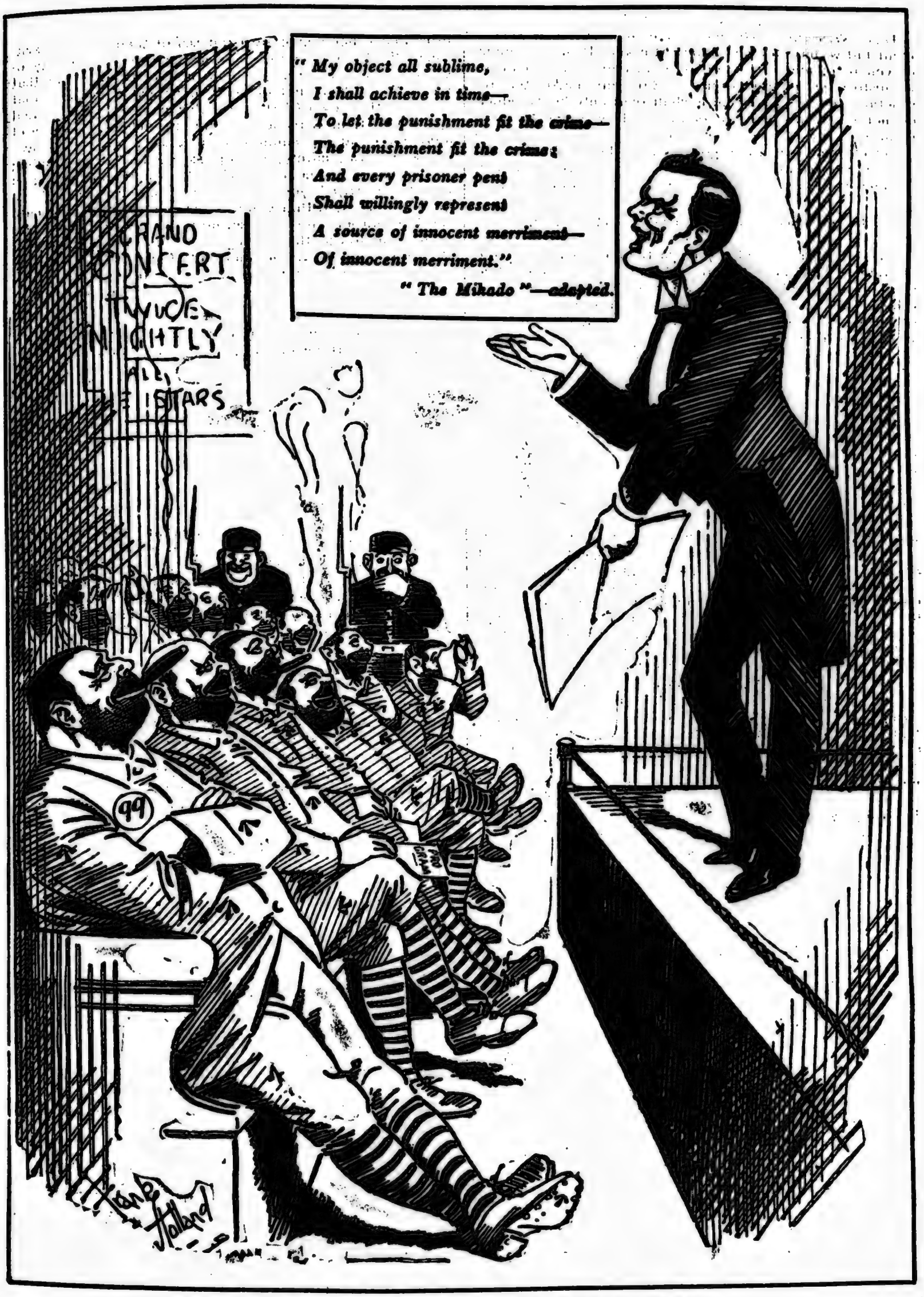
Right Hon. A. J. Balfour, M.P.

Agree with you Republic utterly unsuitable for British Empire. We get full change for our Sovereign. BULL.

John Murray, Publisher, London, W.

Note that you consider works of Henry George, Karl Marx, and Nietzche "noxious literature." Is this pious opinion by way of atonement for your grandfather, who published Byron? BULL.

BALLADS FOR BACKSLIDERS.


" My object all sublime,
I shall achieve in time—
To let the punishment fit the crime—
The punishment fit the crime;
And every prisoner pent
Shall willingly represent
A source of innocent merriment—
Of innocent merriment."
" The Mikado "—adapted.
99
Jan Holland

WINSTON STRIKES THE HUMAN "NOTE."

(Under Mr. Churchill's scheme of Prison Reforms convicts are to enjoy occasional concerts.)

JOHN BULL IN THE CITY.

By Verax.

The North Eastern Strike and Forced Closing for Vienna Account Shake the Markets—An Early Recovery, However, Probable in View of Cheap Money and a Big Bear Account—Another Break in Yankers.

The stock markets have taken a very disappointing turn, and matters looked very gloomy at one time when to the strike on the Grand Trunk Railway of Canada there was added a sudden outbreak on the North Eastern Railway, which, of course, affected the whole Home Railway market adversely. It fortunately came to as sudden an end, owing to the judicious action of the Amalgamated officials, but fresh troubles arose in another quarter through the failure of a Vienna banker and stock dealer in a large way of business, who let in numerous members of the London Stock Exchange and of the Paris and Berlin Bourses. The London losses are estimated at £50,000, but may be more, and Continental losses are evidently much larger. The fall in *Canadian Pacifics* was due to the forced closing of this firm's accounts, and amongst the stocks that had to be disposed of were American Rails, Kaffir and other Mining shares. No wonder that depression was caused in all the markets, while in the Yankee market a fresh break in New York, notwithstanding a large increase in the surplus reserves of the Associated Banks, was a disagreeable feature. The fact is that the unfavourable crop reports are preventing even the American public from investing, so that the leading Wall Street magnates have to carry the bulk of the stock. My advice, recently reiterated, that it would be well to leave Amercian rails alone even now, thus is fully justified by events. Home Rails have remained dull, even after the North Eastern strike has been settled, and, notwithstanding some good dividend announcements. Mining shares have been sagging, but there has been no heavy fall, at least not in Kaffirs, which are, indeed, extremely cheap. Foreign Government stocks are weaker apart from Japanese, and Mexican Rails are lower. Some advantageous purchases are still to be effected in South American Government and Railway stocks, and these, as well as other securities, should improve again in the near future, as money is abundant and cheap both here and on the Continent. Rubber and Oil shares have also been affected by the general depression, but these two markets should be closely watched, as in these the most active business will probably be transacted in the course of the autumn.

Latest Favourites—Japanese Government Stocks and Textiles.

More than once I have anticipated a further rise in *Japanese Government stocks*, owing to the prospective steady improvement in the financial status of Japan, and now we have the four per cent. Bonds at their top price of 94¼ ex. div. of 2, while the 4½ per cent. of 1905 are up to nearly 101. There is little doubt but that the Fours will reach the goal of par. The Japs are past masters in the adoption of desirable European methods, and the improvement in their financial position is largely the result of their debt-refunding operations. The balance of foreign trade is now also turning in favour of Japan. The section in the *Industrial Market* which has most come into prominence of late is that of *Textile shares*. The improvement in trade and the five years' truce in Lancashire labour affairs has helped the large concerns very materially. There are still satisfactory investments to be made in this section. *Coats* is, of course, the chief stock, and although the 7s. dividend on the £1 shares does not at the present price of 12¾, provide more than £2 14s. 9d. per cent. per annum, the shares are being talked up to £15. The question is, of course, whether, when the legal difficulties have been overcome, a substantial distribution will be made out of the Company's enormous reserves. The present yield of other Textiles is: *American Thread Prefs.*, £4 8s. 9d.; *Bleachers' Association*, £6 11s. 1d.; *Bradford Dyers*, £6 11s.; *English Sewing Cotton*, £4 17s. 3d.; *Fine Cotton Spinners*, £4 18s. 6d.; *Woolcombers Prefs.* £2 4s. 6d. per cent. per annum.

Mining Markets Neglected—Continental Liquidation the Bugbear—Kaffirs and Rhodesians Decline—A Randfontein Circular—West Africans Idle—Coppers Fluctuate.

The Kaffir Circus is getting no rest. Hardly has forced closing of Paris accounts come to an end, and a moderate rally set in, when a Vienna failure causes fresh anxiety. The firm in question appears to have had a large account in Kaffir shares open, but the bulk has been taken over by leading London firms. The occurrence, however, unsettled the market, jobbers lowering prices in many instances without any shares changing hands. As the position on the Rand is, however, most satisfactory, and three or four millions sterling in dividends will be disbursed durng the next fortnight, the recovery, when it sets in, should be substantial. In the meantime *Rand Mines* at 8¼, *Goldfields* at 5 5-16, *Randfontein Estates* at 2 9-32, *Crown Mines* at 8 9-16, and all the large producing and dividend-paying Witwatersrand Mines are very cheap from the point of view of their handsome yield on the investment. With regard to *Rand Mines, Ltd.*, the following record of the performance of this great finance company is interesting reading:—

DIVIDENDS DECLARED.

No.	Date.	Per cent.	Amount.	Capital Paid on
			£	£
1	Dec., 1898	100	337,136	337,136
2	July, 1899	75	253,364	338,086
3	July, 1902	80	359,191	448,918
4	June, 1904	100	448,989	448,989
5	June, 1905	100	448,989	448,989
6	June, 1906	120	538,787	448,989
7	Dec., 1906	60	269,393	448,989
8	June, 1907	60	269,393	448,989
9	Dec., 1907	70	314,292	448,989
10	June, 1908	90	404,090	448,989
11	Dec., 1908	100	448,989	448,989
12	June, 1909	200	900,978	450,489
13	Dec., 1909	150	699,999	466,666
14	June, 1910	110	513,332	466,666

For the year 1909 the company paid to the shareholders no less than £1,600,977, and the total paid since 1898 exceeds six millions sterling. The interim dividend paid for the last half of 1910 may be considered as fixed on conservative lines. By the way, my comment on the idiotic letters making misrepresentations concerning *Randfontein Estates* has been followed by an official circular refuting these attacks. Within a few months the *Randfontein Central's* great battery of 900 stamps will be at work, and as a very large holder of the shares, and of those of the *Randfontein South*, the parent company will be in a position to pay large divdends to its shareholders, and the circular therefore advises the shareholders not to be influenced by these letters, which are obviously written with the object of depreciating the value of their holdings. It is also pointed out that half the value of *Randfontein Estates*, if purchased in 1896 at 1½, has been returned to the shareholders in bonuses. I have stated more than once that *Randfontein Estates* at 2 9-32, *Central and South* at 2 11-16 and 2 3-16 respectively, are some of the cheapest stocks on the market.

Rhodesians have also turned weak. The lastest *Surprise* news has made a disagreeable impression, and despite favourable advices concerning *Gold Schists* and *Shamva Trusts*, these shares, together with *Rhodesian Explorations*, are quite neglected. *Chartered* are merely 1 7-16, and *Tanks* have dropped below 6 again. Here the Continent has also been liquidating. West Africans are weak in sympathy, and even the *Prestea Mines*, which are worth 10s. on their arrangement with the *Prestea "A"* alone, while their interest in the *Anfargah* works out to 3s. more, have been knocked down to 8s. 6d.—9s., which is an absurdity. Amongst West Australian Mines, *Golden Horseshoe*, after having got over the passing of the dividend, have recovered somewhat to 5⅛. I suppose dividends will eventually be resumed, and these are, moreover, £5 shares, so that they would stand only just above par. Other West Australians are idle, and *Barriers* have turned weak again. *Zinc Corporation*, however, are steady at 12s. American Copper Mining shares have again fluctuated wildly, according to the news of the proposed curtailment of the output. *Amalgamated* are lower at 60¾. *Rio Tinto* are barely steady and below the recent highest at 65½. A rise in these shares would, of course, greatly help the Paris Bourse. *Mexican Mines of El Oro* are easier at 8⅞, *Carmens* at 2, notwithstanding hopeful news from the latter mine.

Hawthorne Silver and Iron Mines, Ltd.—Some Advice to Numerous Correspondents.

This country has been flooded of late with circulars recommending as a Canadian investment one million shares of the Hawthorne Silver and Iron Mines, Ltd., incorporated under the laws of the State of Delaware, U.S.A. Although the property is situate in Canada, it is registered in Yankeeland, and, of course, the usual Yankee methods are followed. The share capital is large—viz., $15,000,000 in $1 shares (4s.), and the shares are offered for public subscription at half the money—viz., 2s. per share, "for a limited time only." The circulars are issued by Mr. Julian Hawthorne, who seems to have located himself at 16, St. Helen's Place, Bishopsgate Street Within, London, E.C., and who places before British investors this concern as one of "the most stupendous industrial and mining deals." Mr. Hawthorne goes on to say that the project is about as

huge as anything in the whole of Canada; but we know, of course, that our Yankee cousins always love to boast that they have got hold of the biggest thing in the world. Various particulars are given, and reports by people who are not known here, and the statements of Mr. Julian Hawthorne, who seems to be a kind of promoter, cannot really be taken as independent testimony. What American promoters of mines, whether they be situated in the United States or in Canada, have to do is to obtain the independent testimony of leading English mining engineers, whose position is such that our big capitalists would invest their money on their word. There is altogether a great deal of extraneous literature included in Mr. Hawthorne's circulars, but one thing is certain—viz., that the company is not a going concern, that it is not earning profits now, and that the testimony of engineers who are well known on this side has not been obtained. This is quite enough to warrant me in the advice to the numerous correspondents who have forwarded me these batches of circulars to have nothing to do with the Hawthorne Silver and Iron Mines, and I should think that Mr. Julian Hawthorne will do well to return to the United States or Canada and peddle out the shares there. This is no place for them.

Rubber Shares Relapse in the Depressing Surroundings —The Bears' Action—Para Rubber Lower.

With the other sections, the Rubber market also joined in the general depression, and the "Bears" did their best to aggravate the position. The price of fine Para, moreover, declined to 9s. 4d., partly on larger receipts at Para, which now amount to 1,950 tons so far in July, against 1,400 tons for the whole of July last year. The renewed weakness in New York, moreover, led to rumours that the banks were disinclined to advance money in connection with motor cars, but I suppose if our American cousins want more motor cars they will not be entirely dependent upon their banks for loans on the same. For the moment, however, the market is lower, and even the high-class shares are down. Thus, *Anglo-Malay* are quoted 26s., *Batu Caves* 17¼, *Damansara* 8½, *Golconda* 6½, *Highlands* 6½, *Linggi* 58s., *Pataling* 5½, *Seremban* 5½, *Shelford* 3⅞, *Bukit Rajah* 19½, *Vallambrosa* 52s. 6d. As I showed, however, last week, in a table, that all these shares at a price of 7s. per lb. for rubber return over 10 per cent. per annum to the investor, it cannot be said that a further fall is at all justified. By the way, a strong "bear" attack had been directed upon *Crude Rubber Washing* shares, the price falling to 1¾ premium, but this raid will probably cost the ursine operators dear. *Madagascar* Pref. at 2¼ premium and Ordinary at 1 1-16, to which I directed attention last week, have been strongly supported. I am somewhat disappointed at the terms of the settlement in the Christineville affair, and I think that the amount of profit made by the vendor syndicate ought to have been stated. If, however, the shareholders are satisfied, it is not for me to follow the matter up any farther.

Rubber Exploration Company.

The Directors' report of the Rubber Exploration Company has now been issued, for the period up to June 30th, 1910, from which it appears that not only has the Company been able, after providing for certain losses, to earn a net profit of £3,289, but also to make further arrangements on which additional profits are expected to be realised. This profit has only been earned on a portion of the issued capital, viz., £20,000, while 79,249 shares have been reserved for future working capital, and are held in trust for the Company. On these a special settlement on the Stock Exchange has already been granted. The financial position of the Company is a good one, and it has ample cash resources, while it retains an option on large blocks of shares of Molesworth Brothers Rubber Estates and David Young Rubber Estates (British Guiana), in both of which companies it has already obtained a considerable profit. The Managing Director is now on the way to British Guiana, with a view to further business to be concluded there, and now under negotiation. It is also proposed, at the suggestion of shareholders and others interested in the Company, to split the present £1 shares into shares of 2s. each, as this course would facilitate dealings. There is every prospect of this Company having a further considerable share in future business in rubber companies, so that the shares are likely to rise to a higher level.

Continental Sales Depress Oil Shares—Maikop Shares also Weak, Despite Favourable Advices from the Oilfield.

During the past week Oil shares have been heavily sold by Continental holders, who had their accounts forcibly closed, as they had made losses in other directions. The shares moved very irregularly, and mostly downwards, Paris selling still being an important factor. Under the circumstances, the important cablegram from Mr. George Tweedy from the Maikop oilfield had no traceable effect, although he states that there are already 41 derricks, and that a further 48 wells are projected, while enormous oil-storage accommodation is being provided—viz., in reservoirs for 3,100,000 poods, while there were already available like reservoirs for 3,500,000 poods, apart from pipe line reservoirs. Further important statements were made by Mr. C. A. Moreing (who had just returned from Maikop) when presiding over the meeting of the Maikop Pipe Line and Transport Company. He was able to state that having walked along the whole line of pipes from Okoterinoda to the oilfields, he found that the whole pipe-line was an easy piece of work, and would be completed by November, when they would find the oil to be carried by them waiting in the reservoirs. No second pipeline is yet being projected. That these shares should under these circumstances also have fallen to ⅜—½ discount is passing strange. Equally cheap are *London-Maikop Oil Corporation* at par, *Maikop Premier* at ¼, *Maikop Valley* Prefs. at ½—¼ discount, or *Black Sea Oilfields* Prefs. (which company is already producing) at 13-16—15-16. *Mexican Eagle* remain firm at par. Some of the older shares are also lower. *Shell Transports*, in which there has been much Continental speculation, receded to 96s., but there was a renewed demand for *Lobitos*, which rose to 30s. *Eastern Petroleum* have steadied at 1½, on the understanding that the new working capital required had been arranged for without recourse to a public share issue. *Oilfields of Mexico* slumped to 65; and *Russian Petroleum Second Debentures* dropped to 64½. *Egyptian "A"* and *Castellon* gave way to 5½ and ⅜ discount respectively. *Oran Oilfields* at ¼ discount. *Trinidad Oilfields* rose to par, but *Trinidad Southern* were down at 1s. 6d. *Oran Oilfields* dropped to ¼ discount, and *Burmah Prefs.* shrunk to 1⅛.

NEW ISSUES.

METALITE, LIMITED.

This Company has been formed with a capital of £500,000, in shares of £1 each, for the purpose of acquiring as going concerns, from April 15th, 1910, first, the British Metalite Syndicate, Limited, and the business patents, processes, goodwill and assets in the United Kingdom of the Bryant Trading Syndicate, Limited, and (2) the business, patents, processes and goodwill of International Filaments, Ltd. The Bryant Syndicate was the first British Company to manufacture metal filament electric lamps, of the Tungsten type, in Great Britain. As the result of continuous experiments, British Metalite Filament Lamps and metal filaments are now being manufactured by the Syndicate under a special process in this country, and it is plain that they are superior to, and compete successfully with, any of the foreign productions now so extensively sold and used in Great Britain. The prospectus states that International Filaments, Limited, has contracts exceeding 15 million filaments per annum for the next five years, either in hand, or in course of execution, in addition to large trade orders. According to the prospectus, estimated profits would show a dividend exceeding 30 per cent. per annum on the capital, but this, of course, is only an estimate. An issue of 380,000 shares of £1 each is now being made, which are offered for subscription at par. The list will close on or before Friday, July 29th, for town, and Saturday, July 30th, for country.

NATIONAL CINEMATOGRAPH THEATRES, LIMITED.

This Company has been formed with a capital of £40,000, divided into 80,000 shares of 10s. each, with the primary object of acquiring and working Cinematograph Theatres in various parts of the United Kingdom. The prospectus explains that the sites which it is intended the Company shall in the first instance acquire are all in the midst of densely populated districts, and also in main thoroughfares, where large numbers of people are constantly passing during the day and evening. The properties in question are situated in Birmingham, Bristol, Edinburgh (Leith), Hull, London (Kilburn), St. Helens, and Stockport, and the seating capacity of these various theatres is estimated in most instances at from 500 to 900, in the case of Kilburn at 390. The prospectus contains a report from the well-known firm of Surveyors and Estate Agents, Messrs. Farebrother, Ellis and Co., who have inspected the several plots of land and buildings which have been secured for the purpose of the Cinematograph Theatres, and they testify to all these sites being suitable for the purpose of this kind of theatre. The Company is being brought out under the same auspices as the United Electric Theatres, Limited, and it is encouraging that the first theatre which has been opened by that Com-

pany, about two months ago, has been highly successful, and is making large weekly net profits. The prospectus also states that the capitalisation is moderate, so that the shareholders may, it is thought, reasonably anticipate an early and large return on their investment. The statement is made in the prospectus that the profits made by the Company should at least equal those made by other similar companies now paying large dividends. It is intended to pay dividends quarterly. An issue is now made of 60,000 shares of 10s. each at par, and the whole of the money subscribed under this issue will be applied to the purposes of the company. It is also stated that no cash profit is made in connection with the promotion or formation of the Company, or the sale of properties or buildings. The subscription list will close on or before Saturday, July 30th, 1910.

JOHN BULL'S FINANCIAL LETTER-BOX.

(1) Letters containing inquiries must be addressed to the City Editor, John Bull, 2, Copthall Buildings, E.C. The names and addresses of correspondents must be enclosed, not, of course, for publication, but in token of good faith. Anonymous communications will be disregarded.

(2) Correspondents should adopt either a nom-de-plume, or mention initials under which the replies will appear in the paper. The stocks or subjects inquired about should also be numbered.

(3) Replies are only made in the ordinary way through the columns of this journal under the above heading, and not by letter.

(4) In no circumstances will the proprietors undertake the sale or purchase of stocks or shares.

(5) If inquirers wish it, the names and addresses of respectable firms of stockbrokers, members of the London Stock Exchange, for transacting business, will be supplied to them, in which case a stamped addressed envelope must be enclosed.

(6) A Postal Order for 1/- must accompany each Financial or Insurance Enquiry.

Civil Service Bank.—J. W. T. (Camberwell).—I do not recommend deposits with this institution.

Hawthorne Silver and Iron Mines, Ltd.—J. O.—The circulars of Mr. Julian Hawthorne, of 16, St. Helen's Place, Bishopsgate Street Within, are being scattered so broadcast over this country, that I am referring to the same specially in a paragraph to-day, to which I must refer you; but my advice is not to go into this company, and rather to invest your money nearer home, or in something more secure. N.N., P.O., X. Y. Z.—Same reply, and also to G. D. (Edinburgh). With regard to the further question of the latter, I am decidedly of opinion that you cannot do better than put the £40 in question into Randfontein Central, as this is one of the most progressive mines in South Africa. The document is, as requested, returned to J. O. Same reply as regards the Hawthorne Mines to Northcroft (Beds.).

St Cecile Municipal Casino Company, Ltd.—Uno.—(1) You certainly should not pay any more on these shares, and give notice accordingly. (2) I have received dozens of these circulars, and it is quite useless your sending me any more. (3) You had better ask the man to take the shares back. They are quite unsaleable anywhere else, and you had better not do any more in this line, as you say.

Outside Brokers.—Sutherland.—You are not justified to use your hard-earned savings to speculate with outside brokers. As a father of a family, as you describe, you should put your savings by and invest them in sound securities. If it is a fair amount, I can tell you the stocks to buy which will yield you from 4 to 4½ per cent. per annum with every safety. To speculate with outside brokers will merely end in your losing the money. A. C. (Wolverhampton).—I strongly advise you to have nothing to do with the outside concern mentioned by you. The circulars are merely designed to obtain your £5 or £10 notes, and you will never see a penny back again. You should have nothing to do with this concern, and if you are once in a position to invest some money in safety, you should employ a stockbroker, who is a member of the Stock Exchange. Bradbourne College.—Both concerns mentioned by you are outside brokers, and if you speculate through them you are pretty sure to lose your money. If you have any money to invest, do so through a member of the Stock Exchange, and I am prepared to send you the name of a respectable firm, if you wish it. Rubber (Portsmouth).—You should not buy any Rubber shares through outside brokers, and the firm mentioned by you is such a one. I do not like Aowin Rubber and Produce shares at all, and they are not worth the price of 4s. stated for them. I send what you require in your envelope. You should be careful to buy only the better-class Rubber shares. H. W.—These people are outside brokers, and latest happenings should make you more than careful about dealing with them. You ought to know my views on the subject by now.

Duncan Forbes and Company.—Scrutiny.—You are quite right. This is an artful trap to catch the unwary. It is obviously absurd that these people should promise dividends of 171 per cent. per annum for every £100 invested, and that they should guarantee the capital against loss. The further statement, "How £15 may be invested on this occasion so as to produce £145 profit or more" characterises the whole affair as a dangerous speculation. If these people could make such guaranteed profits, not being philanthropists, they would make them themselves and not offer them to strangers. What you require has been forwarded.

Franklins. Mines.—John Jones.—The Franklin Oil is a promising proposition, and the shares should improve as soon as the market generally braces up. I do not care for the mining concern mentioned.

Mid-Suffolk Light Railway.—E. J. (Ipswich).—I cannot give you any hope of being able to sell your Preference shares. It appears that the Debenture interest fell into arrear in April, 1907, and that there has since been no payment, while in May, 1907, a receiver and manager was appointed on behalf of the debentureholders. The prospect, therefore, of holders of the junior securities ever getting anything is extremely remote.

Premium Bonds.—H. F. (Bharatpur).—You seem to have bought your Premium Bonds from one of those Paris firms, who charge much more than market price. Under the circumstances, I strongly advise you to deal with a thoroughly respectable firm of foreign bankers in London, who will see that you are properly treated, and who will also be able to inform you, against a small charge, about the drawings. Nomad (Belfast).—Your best plan is to get into communication with a respectable firm of foreign bankers in London who make a speciality as regards the same. The address has been forwarded in your envelope.

Oil Shares.—Parliament.—There is no option but to hold your New Zealand Oil shares for a recovery. A substantial improvement in the Oil share market is expected towards the end of the year. F.—It should be worth while averaging Bakus to a moderate extent, but you will have to keep your shares for some time for tangible results, until the present dulness of the markets generally passes away. R. J.—No oil shares can be considered "safe," but if you are prepared to lock them up for some time the shares in question would not be a bad speculative investment.

Three Mining Concerns.—Durham.—The only concern amongst the three mentioned of any promise at all is No. 3, but you can do still better in leading South Africans—Randfontein Estates, for instance.

Three Kaffirs.—Mrs. E. E.—The three Kaffirs mentioned would be quite suitable, but I do not advise purchase of Tominils, even as a speculation.

Omnibus Cousins.—Doubtful (Bristol).—Yes, the amalgamation has been effected, and you had better send this counterfoil at once, with your explanation of the whole matter.

Rubbers.—A. W. J.—This Rubber concern belongs to the very doubtful category, and there is no market for the shares. No option now but to hold. Celtic.—If you want low-priced Rubbers, Seafields and Batu Tigas will not suit you, as these stand at a high level. The following is a good selection:—Crude Rubber at 1½ premium, Madagascar at 1½, ditto Prefs. 2½ premium. A. M. M.—There is no market for these shares at present, so that it is a case of Hobson's choice with regard to holding them. Bertie.—Kuala Pahi, quoted at 2s., are the best of the two shares mentioned, and you will find further hints as regards Rubber shares in my letter. A. H.—These shares are not amongst my favourites, and there is no quotation for the same. As, however, the company was floated during the height of the boom, it doubtless got all the capital it wanted. There is no option but to hold the shares and to pay up the calls.

£1,000 for Investment.—B. P. S.—The two securities in question are fair holdings, but they do not rank amongst Trustee investments. The latter do not extend beyond Colonial Government Bonds, which yield up to 3½ per cent. per annum. I have at various times given lists of such bonds, which you will no doubt have seen.

£300 to Invest.—Two Sisters.—As perfect safety is a *sine qua non*, your choice is somewhat limited. I should think that the last Westralian 3½ per cent. Loan, issued at 96½ and quoted at ½ discount, so that it can at present be purchased at about 96, should answer your purpose.

San Francisco del Oro.—Frisco.—No information has been vouchsafed since the circular was issued giving the particulars in question, while the fact that the shares stand at nearly 50 per cent. discount is by no means encouraging. I should, therefore, not like to prophesy with regard to the future of the mine, or whether the new process has really solved the treatment problem.

London and Liverpool Mining Company, Mexico.—A. H. W.—I regret being unable to help you in the matter. The company does not even appear in the usual books of reference. The occurrence should be a lesson to you not to dabble in shares in which there is no real market.

British North Borneo.—B. N. B. G. T.—A fair investment, especially if you do not get in too high, but there are many other investments, upon which your stockbroker can advise you. What you require has been forwarded.

West African Rubber Lands.—D. K. G.—I am making some enquiries, and will communicate with you as soon as I find some suitable intermediary.

Sale of Shares.—J. W. P.—I do not think you have any remedy, but the occurrence should be a lesson to you to deal direct through a stockbroker—of course, a member of the Stock Exchange.

Copper Metals Co.—V. W. H.—There is no market for these bonds, and the concerns mentioned do not even appear in the usual books of reference.

Foreign Agency.—H. L.—Your best plan would be to advertise in the London and Continental daily press, which should fetch you some suitable replies.

£250 for Investment.—Sir.—(1) Put the money into Colonial Government Bonds or Home Rails. (2) These shares are quoted at about 10s., and you had better realise. (3) What you require has been forwarded to you.

Income Tax.—Ardcuile.—You could not escape payment of income tax on registered bonds, but coupons on bearer bonds could be posted to you, which could be cashed in America. The English income tax would, therefore, not apply.

Building Society.—F. S.—From the inquiries which I have made I think that the society, No. 2, would answer your purpose best.

INSURANCE REPLIES.

Insurance Enquiries should be addressed Insurance Editor, 67, Long Acre, W.C.

Law, Car and General Insurance Corporation.—J. B. (Tufnell Park).—We agree, but we hardly think there is much occasion for anxiety. W. E. (Woking).—All would depend upon the exact wording of the undertaking. We think it unlikely that the company would try to avoid its obligation, but if coroners' juries were not excepted the company is, of course, in the wrong. E. R. (Dewsbury).—Write once more reminding them that your two previous communications have not been acknowledged, and let us know the result.

Salvation Army Assurance Company.—Anxious (Millbrook).—We should prefer another selection.

Liverpool Victoria Insurance Corporation.—A. B. C. (Luton).—You should sell if you have the opportunity to do so.

Mutual Property Investment and Accident Co.—D. R. H. (Seven Sisters Road).—The answer is in the negative.

One and All Assurance Association.—J. L. M. (Dovercourt).—With reference to our reply under this head of last week, and in so far as it relates to the One and All Assurance Association, we have since seen correspondence which satisfies us that our correspondent has no legitimate ground of complaint.

Cosmopolitan Insurance Company.—W. C. (Midsomer Norton).—You need be under no apprehension as to the point you name. W. A. C. (Bath).—The office was established some five years ago. We know nothing against it.

Self Help Insurance Company.—H. M. (Finchley).—If you have any correspondence on the subject of your complaint with the company, let us see it.

Universal Insurance Loan and Investment Company.—P. F. (Croydon).—We see no reason why you should not transfer to the Royal Liver. We return your letters.

Canada Life Assurance Company.—E. S. (Southampton).—Yes, quite.

City Life Assurance Company.—Crennis (Town Hill).—Yes, the company is extending its life business. Ita.—The Ideal policy is a good one.

National Benefit Trust.—A. P. (Bristol).—The trust has been established many years.

Legal and Commercial Insurance Company.—C. N. (Southsea).—In 1907.

Reliance Fire and Accident Insurance Corporation.—H. C. D. (Plaistow).—On the face of it the requirement of the company does not seem to be unusual or unreasonable. We return your papers.

United Friendly Insurance Company.—E. B. (Kilburn).—We think it doubtful. Send us the correspondence.

Commercial Union Assurance Company.—J. M. B. (Tulse Hill).—Assuming the facts to be as you state them, that is to say that your friend has been insured in the Commercial Assurance Company, or Companies, that have been taken over by, or amalgamated with it, for over 30 years, and has paid regularly, and only made one claim, a small one for £8 10s., during the whole of this insurance, the company seems to have acted somewhat harshly way in refusing to renew the policy because, as it would seem, your friend is 72 years of age. But he can do nothing, seeing that the directors reserve to themselves the "liberty to decline to continue the policy."

Prudential Assurance Company.—T. V. K. (Dudley).—We cannot advise you without seeing the correspondence. Upon the facts as you state them your claim would seem to be in order, but the full particulars might put a different complexion upon the matter.

Progressive Assurance Company.—W. F. (Pontefract).—The company is in liquidation, and you will get nothing from it.

Value of Policy.—H. L. (Beckenham).—Your questions would be better addressed to the head office of the company itself. They would give you an authoritative and precise answer.

New York Life Insurance Company.—N. M. (Edinburgh).—You need be under no apprehension as to the "safety" of the company. Whether you will get all they have conditionally promised you is another matter.

British Homes Assurance Corporation.—Sero (Hove).—We cannot help you in the matter.

A complete Prospectus has been filed with the Registrar of Joint Stock Companies, which states :—

The List will OPEN on MONDAY, the 25th day of July, 1910, and CLOSE on or before FRIDAY, the 29th day of July, 1910, for London, and 30th for country.

METALITE LIMITED.

Incorporated under the Companies (Consolidation) Act, 1908.

CAPITAL - - £500,000.

Divided into 500,000 Shares of £1 each.

ISSUE OF 380,000 SHARES OF £1 EACH.

Which are offered for Subscription at par, payable as follows:

2s. per Share on Application
3s. per Share on Allotment.
5s. per Share one month after Allotment.

And the balance as and when required.

The Shares may be paid up in full or at any time after allotment. Interest will be allowed on prepayments at the rate of 6 per cent. per Annum.

Certificates for fully-paid Shares can be exchanged for Share Warrants to bearer, the stamp duty on which will be paid by the Company.

DIRECTORS.

Sir THOMAS BROOKE-HITCHING, 19, Cavendish Square, London, W., Chairman of West London and Provincial Electric Supply Company, Limited (Chairman).

JACOB ATHERTON, Huyton, near Liverpool, Chairman South London Electric Supply Corporation, Limited.

Colonel DAVID ALEXANDER KINLOCH, C.B., M.V.O., Member of Lloyd's, 16, St. Helen's Place, London, E.C.

J. F. ALEXANDER RAWLINSON, 89, Piccadilly, London, W., Director, Cartagena (Colombia) Railway Company, Limited.

JOSEPH METCALFE, C.E., Clarence Works, Highbury, London, N. (Managing Director).

(The Bryant Trading Syndicate, Limited, and International Filaments, Limited, have each the right to nominate an additional Director after Allotment.)

BANKERS.

LONDON COUNTY AND WESTMINSTER BANK, Limited, 21, Lombard Street, London, E.C., and Branches.

COMMERCIAL BANK OF SCOTLAND, Limited, 62, Lombard Street, London, E.C., and Branches in Scotland.

BROKERS.

London: HERBERT S. STONEHAM and CO., 62, London Wall (and Stock Exchange).
ENGELBERT and SCHLOESSER, 11, Copthall Court (and Stock Exchange).
Liverpool: J. ARNOLD BRADSHAW and CO., Exchange Court (and Stock Exchange).

SOLICITORS.

For the Company: ASHURST, MORRIS, CRISP and CO., 17, Throgmorton Avenue, London, E.C.
For the Vendors: RODYK, WILLIAMSON, and FOX, 70a, Aldermanbury, London, E.C.

AUDITORS.

J. H. DUNCAN and CO., Chartered Accountants, 39, Coleman Street, London, E.C.

ENGINEER.

FRANCIS HARRISON, A.M.I.E.E., Clarence Works, Highbury, London, N.

SECRETARY AND OFFICES.

A. CLARKE VINCENT, F.S.A.A., 9-10, Panerns Lane, Queen Street, London, E.C.

ABRIDGED PROSPECTUS.

The Company has been formed primarily for the purpose of acquiring as going concerns as from the 15th day of April, 1910:—

(1) The "British Metalite" Lamp and Metal Filament Manufacturing Business, Goodwill, and Assets in the United Kingdom of the Bryant Trading Syndicate, Limited; and

(2) The Business, Patents, Processes, and Goodwill of the International Filaments, Limited.

The liabilities of both the Vendor Companies will be discharged by them.

"Contracts exceeding Fifteen Million (15,000,000) Filaments per annum for the next five years are already in hand and in course of execution, in addition to large Trade orders, and the Syndicate is on the list of Contractors for, and has received orders from, amongst others, over fifty Corporations, the War and Admiralty Departments, Home Office, Crown Agents for the Colonies, several of the principal Home Railways, Tramway Corporations, Hotels, and National Telephone Company. Arrangements are being made both in the United Kingdom and abroad to develop the business on an extensive scale, whereby a large proportion of the world's trade should be secured, and on the installation of the Company's proposed larger works contracts for many additional millions will be available for acceptance."

The present minimum consumption of Incandescent Electric Lamps within the United Kingdom is estimated at 40,000,000 per annum, but when the fact is more generally known that owing to the introduction of Metal Filament Lamps electricity has become cheaper to use as an illuminant than gas, the demand for those lamps will be enormously increased. At present gas supplies 90 per cent. of the artificial lighting in the country. It will thus be obvious that there is a wide scope for development, under a well defined system of organisation, by which the Company should enormously increase the output of their "British Metalite" Lamps, and it is computed that the sale in the United Kingdom alone will amount to at least 5,000,000 annually.

ESTIMATED PROFITS AND REVENUE.

An estimate based on results obtained by the Vendor Companies since the perfection of the Patents and Processes, and compiled in conjunction with Mr. F. Harrison, A.M.I.E.E., shows, after charging all outgoings and expenses of manufacture, the following minimum annual profits:—

	£
On the sale of "British Metalite" Lamps	125,000
On the sale of "British Metalite" Filaments to other Lamp Manufacturers in this Country and Abroad	130,000
	£255,000
Deduct for Administration, Advertising, and General Expenses, Reserves, Depreciation, and Contingencies, 33 1-3 per cent.	85,000
	£170,000

Showing a Dividend exceeding 30 per centum on the entire Capital.

The above estimate has no regard to additional and profitable sources of Revenue, such as the sale of Prepared Metal for the manufacture of filaments, special machinery and plant to foreign manufacturers and subsidiary companies, and the granting of licences when expedient.

It is intended to apply in due course to the London Stock Exchange for a special settlement and quotation in the Shares now offered.

This Form of Application may be used.

This Form to be sent with remittance to THE LONDON COUNTY and WESTMINSTER BANK, LIMITED, 21, Lombard Street, London, E.C., or to THE COMMERCIAL BANK OF SCOTLAND, LTD., 62, Lombard London, E.C., or Branches.

To the Directors of METALITE LIMITED.

GENTLEMEN,

Having paid to the Company's Bankers the sum of £....., being a deposit of 2s. per Share on ..... Shares in the above-named Company, I request you to allot me such number of Shares on the terms of the Company's Prospectus dated the 21st day of July, 1910, and I agree to accept the same or any smaller number that may be allotted to me and to pay the further sum of 8s. per Share on allotment as provided by the said Prospectus, and the balance when called up, as provided by the said Prospectus, and I request you to register me as the holder of such Shares.

Name (in full) .....
Please state if Mr., Mrs., or Miss.

Address .....

Description .....

Date ....., 1910.

Signature .....

LETTERS FROM JANE ANN.

(Being communications from a young person to her friends and relations.)

By Moore Anking.

LETTER No. VII.

THE DURDLES,
DIDDLESTON.

MY VERY DEAREST BERT,—The weather here is simply pewtrid, but I'm glad to say that the beautiful ring you sent me arrived last Saturday.

I *did* feel vexed though with the postman. Don't know how you could have packed the thing, dear, but the diamond looked as if it had been hit with a mallet, or p'raps somebody at the post-office punched it with the date-stamp.

"You wait till we wimmen have the vote," I said to the postman, "you just wait and see. Creachers like you won't be told to get off the earth," I says, "you won't be allowed to come on, you'll be sent about your bisniss."

Said he'd never heard such talk in all his born days.

"Born days," I says, "your sort's lucky to have any. When we wimmen once make our mind up," I says, "insecks like you won't be born at all. There'll be airships and things to take you back where you come from. And you try to kiss me again when my back's turned," I said, "and you see what I'll do. Sorcy monkey."

I *was* mad. You know what a puss Iam when I'm upset.

You must have stinted yourself, Bert, to send me such a lovely present. Only to have it straightened out and a new diamond put in cost me eightpence. What it must have cost when it was new I daren't think. I do hope it's all your own money you're spending. But there, you always were a bit above the common. x x x x Have one of these night and morning, dear.

I'm sending you a couple of George's—I mean his lordship's collars. They got a bit frayed in the wash. I don't suppose he'll miss them.

Shouldn't wear them up West-minister way, if I was you. Some of his parlymentry friends might rekkernise hem, and I don't want to be brought into any bother.

Things are much the same, hereabouts, only the pram seems to be getting harder to push. That's because the youngsters are putting on weight, I suppose. They do fidget sometimes. Makes it all one body's work to keep them in the cart and the makkintosh over 'em.

I don't coddle 'em up overmuch when we're out. Doesn't do. 'Tisn't as if they were mine. But still, I never lose control, as you might say. Once I get them strapped in, I make them keep their place. They've only fell in the pond once, and then I pulled them out myself. I don't think that's a bad wreckord.

I think our old housekeeper must have had a tap. She haves us girls up in her room in bunches, and gives us talks.

Gen'rally I stand in the back row and learn something off that song sheet you sent me. Isn't ip-i-addy grand! And the head-peaces these poetry people have on them. It must be a gift. I do wish I knew music.

Lots of chat the old girl hands to us is all right, but I don't hold with some of the things she chirps about.

The other day she says to us, "Girls," she says, "ought to take life seriously." I happened to be lissning to her for once in a way, so I says, "Whose life ought we to take, mum?"

That did it. You ought to have heard her rap out at me about purls and swine and things. Such talk. I didn't think the old puzzle had it in her.

One of the girls got laughing about it, afterwards, and me and her nearly had a fight. Only that I had my best dress on and my hat-pin was upstairs she'd have found trouble. The cat.

Fancy, dearest. I nearly forgot about your firm giving you another sixpence a week. It's no more than your rights, dear, but if I was you I should put half of it away. Never know what you may want later, and it soon mounts up. I started when I come here, and now I've got four and eightpence. I think it's nice to have your own money to fall back on.

And now, dear, I must conclude. Write soon. x x x x You don't know what a comfort your letters are whenever I have a quiet time to myself. x x x x With sweetest love from your wife that is to be.

JANE ANN

Something New—that's good for you!

LION BREWERY MILK STOUT

is BREWED from the BEST MALT and HOPS and LACTOSE (SUGAR of MILK); is therefore MORE NOURISHING and MORE DIGESTIBLE than ORDINARY STOUT.

EACH PINT CONTAINS the ENERGY-VALUE of a GLASS of FRESH DAIRY MILK. It is ANTI-RHEUMATIC, and HIGHLY RECOMMENDED to INVALIDS and NURSING MOTHERS.

Sold by all Grocers, Wine Merchants, and Stores. Write for name of nearest Agent to

LION BREWERY Co., Ltd.
LAMBETH, S.E.

BOTTLING AGENTS WANTED IN PRINCIPAL TOWNS OUTSIDE LONDON.

3/3
Per Dozen Pints.

A Visit to Clavier Hall.

Our Enquiry into a Much-talked-of Curative Invention.

In the Press generally has recently appeared some extraordinary claims on behalf of an invention (by a doctor) for the cure of some of the most painful and chronic diseases with which mankind is afflicted, including such stubborn and hitherto incurable complaints as Rheumatism, Arthritis, Sciatica, Lumbago, Paralysis and Deafness.

We were decidedly sceptical regarding the foundation of these claims, and in this frame of mind entered upon an investigation of this mechanical doctor at the address at which it is now being demonstrated.

A Machine that Apparently "Moves Mountains."

We found at Clavier Hall, in Hanover Square, an interesting crowd of sufferers afflicted with a wide assortment of painful and obstinate maladies. They almost without exception bore upon their foreheads and in their eyes those indelible marks which prolonged pain alone impresses. Their average age was, probably, about 50. In almost every case—as we subsequently ascertained—their ailments were of many years' standing, and they had reached Hanover Square after paying the usual round of visits to doctors and hospitals. It was obvious that none of them were of the *malade imaginaire* type, so familiar to the fashionable doctors in that aristocratic neighbourhood.

All visitors, we learned, are treated quite gratuitously, although they range from the titled downwards.

We quite expected to come across the cloven hoof of commercialism, but apparently no pressure is placed upon visitors to purchase the appliance which Dr. Macaura has invented. Indeed, it may be here said that almost invariably the patients seem eager, after a demonstration of its curative effect, to possess themselves of one.

The invention, which is apparently capable of "moving mountains," is known as the "Macaura Invention," or the "Macaura Machine." It is certainly an ingenious machine of handsome appearance, in shape not unlike the cylinder of a De Dion motor, and also resembling that piece of mechanism in the rapidity of the strokes of its piston.

The inventor claims for it a striking force of a half-horse power, which, he says, is necessary in order to obtain the penetrating power which is necessary to break up the chalky deposits between the rheumatic joints and to arouse the dormant and powerless muscles of the paralytic and cause rapid circulation. The rapidity of the pulsations of the invention are entirely at the discretion of the user. Thus it can be made to administer from 2,000 to 5,000 taps per minute with mechanical regularity, and it is this rapid succession of percussions that literally makes a disease-affected part revert to healthy behaviour.

The machine, as we at first supposed, is not actuated by electricity but hand-power, the discovery of a manual means of obviating the intricacies incidental to electricity being achieved by the inventor in a very ingenious manner.

Some Famous Patients.

Although, as we have said, the great bulk of patients treated at the Institute are of the non-paying class, this is not entirely the case, as it is no secret that Dr. Macaura himself visits many very distinguished sufferers—his visit to one of our Field Marshals being recalled by a recently reported incident. We were delighted to learn that this national idol has derived great benefit from the use of this invention, while his lady is wonderfully better and seems quite cured of sciatica, according to her letter, which upon request we were shown upon our undertaking not to give publicity to the name.

A Few Typical Cases We Had Under Observation.

At the time of our visit a score of assistants were administering treatment to patients in separate rooms. The first case we visited was that of a man who had for eight years been suffering from an acute form of that painful disease sciatica. This was his first attendance at Clavier Hall. After 15 minutes' treatment he declared that he felt nothing like the amount of pain he was accustomed to suffer in the legs—he demonstrated that he could raise his knees in the normal manner—while the pains in the back were greatly alleviated. Though a previously lengthy course of treatment at the West London Hospital had only slightly relieved him upon a previous occasion, he had never felt as easy as after this short test of the "Macaura Machine," and was quite confident that a few more treatments would entirely cure him.

Quick Relief.

Our next visit was to a man of 69 years of age, who had suffered from rheumatic gout for 30 years.

This was his first attendance at Clavier Hall. His knees were very much swollen, as also were the joints of his fingers, while the fingers themselves were twisted. After only a quarter of an hour's treatment he was able to move his hands freely, and to walk in perfect comfort!

We then saw a man who had suffered from chronic Rheumatism in the shoulders and neuralgia in the head, and who had been in constant and acute pain for the last three years.

We questioned him after his first treatment, when he assured us that the rheumatism and neuralgia had quite gone—"I feel as if I had never had it," he explained to our representative.

A Veteran Athlete.

Another patient was a man 73 years of age, who had suffered from a broken shoulder-bone, with chronic rheumatism supervening. This, though an obstinate case, had yielded to a course of treatment extending over some weeks, and the plucky old man has now refused to receive sick pay from his benefit society, and is taking practice spins preparatory to a walk to and from Brighton!

An interesting case was that of a middle-aged man who had suffered from paralysis of the right side and neuritis. The former was quite cured in three weeks, while the latter—which was of four years' standing—was practically removed.

A sufferer from sciatica for 19 years was also shown to us. This was his second visit to Clavier Hall—and he was already free from pain.

Another case was that of a woman afflicted with rheumatoid arthritis, who had been carried out of the Homœopathic Hospital on a litter after being there for eight months.

She then stayed at another hospital for two months, and was discharged when she felt a little better, though she had no feeling in her legs, her arms were useless and her teeth clenched. She had her first treatment with Dr. Macaura's machine at the Royal Albert Hall on the occasion of the doctor-inventor's first introduction of his invention to the London public. She was there and then enabled to walk. Since then she has had a regular course, and is now practically restored to health.

Hearing Restored Immediately.

A man who had had chronic rheumatism and deafness for 16 years—during the last two years of which his state had become much worse—at this his first visit stated he could hear conversation addressed to him in ordinary tones. His pain was also removed.

The foregoing are a few typical cases of many we saw. It must not, however, be taken that the inventor claims to have effected permanent cures in all these. His statement—and after this demonstration we do not feel inclined to doubt it—is that his instrument, by its percussion, stimulates and loosens the deposits in the joints and muscles—which in rheumatic affections are hardened—and causes fresh and healthy blood to flow to the part, while with paralysis treatment along the spine assists in restoring full functional power.

In all ailments gentle treatment of the spine, the main seat of the nervous system, is recommended.

A Well-Known London Surgeon's Opinion.

In long-standing chronic cases it is always pointed out that the treatment should be continued, in order that there may be no relapse.

This new mechanical treatment is easily applied at home, it being quite possible for the patient to operate the machine himself, though the services of a servant, nurse or friend are, of course, necessary if the patient is an invalid.

The attitude of the medical profession towards Macaura's appliance may best be described as "mixed." Most medical practitioners recognise that massage is of great benefit in many diseases, and, acknowledging that Dr. Macaura's invention affords the most practical way of applying the treatment with sufficient rapidity and regularity, recommend this machine to their patients. A well-known surgeon we met at Clavier Hall reported two or three cases of rheumatism and arthritis that had responded in a marvellous manner to the good influence of Dr. Macaura's invention. Other practitioners—especially those who have not seen it, or its work—decry the invention, in spite of the fact that the Press organs of the Profession reported favourably (as we have seen) upon it prior to the Doctor-inventor being persuaded to advertise it direct to the public.

Certainly, after having seen the work it is doing, we have no hesitation in saying that we ourselves would use it without delay if we were afflicted with either of the complaints already mentioned. For, after all, seeing is believing, and what we saw certainly justified the strong claims that have been made on behalf of this mechanical device.

Further, we satisfied ourselves that the fair and square "try-before-you-buy" policy is strictly observed at Clavier Hall. It is the very fairness of this policy, as well as the undoubted merits of the invention, that may account for the fact that 35,000 of these "Macaura Machines" have been accepted by the British public.

We could not help thinking, as we saw one after another being relieved, how good a thing it would be if the curative work of this invention could be extended by means of branches in different parts of London and the Provinces. At present, many sufferers have to undertake a more or less painfully long pilgrimage to Clavier Hall.

Here is an opportunity for a philanthropic capitalist, especially as we understand that Dr. Macaura is desirous of retiring from an undertaking which has already attained proportions altogether too large for one individual to handle, and the sphere of usefulness of which might be indefinitely extended throughout the British Empire and the world generally.—

HUMAN DOCUMENTS.—C.

WILL ANYONE HELP THIS SOLDIER?

Can any one of our readers help the writer of the following appeal? It seems hard that a man who has served in the Army for 19 years, who retires with a "very good" certificate, who is still in the prime of health—intelligent, industrious, sober, active—should be forced into the workhouse because, do what he will, he cannot provide for the barest necessities of his family upon a pension of 11d. per day, and he can get no work to add to it.

I served 19½ years in the Royal Garrison Artillery, and came home from Cape Colony just over two years ago for discharge. I have been granted a pension of 11d. a day for life; am married and have two small children. I am 43, active, and in the prime of life, but have utterly failed to get any permanent employment. My Army character is "very good," but everywhere I go I am told that everything with me is satisfactory excepting my age. I have answered advertisements by the score, and interviewed heads and managers of firms, but am put off by telling me I am too old, that it is young fellows they want, or else they take my address and promise to write me, but there it generally ends. There is a branch office here of the National Association for Employment of Ex-Soldiers. I have been registered nearly two years, and have never had an offer of work from there; on making inquiries I am told that nothing can be done, and that I must use my own efforts to obtain work, as they cannot find jobs for all. Now, Sir, you can see that 11d. a day does not go very far towards the upkeep of four healthy persons. Thank goodness the one thing we can lay claim to is good health. I have been to neighbouring towns, to coal-pits, and all sorts of places, but everywhere I am looked askance at, on account of the slight tinge of grey about my temples. People do not take into consideration that a strenuous life in the Army, with my last five years of service in South Africa, tends to make a soldier often look older than he really is. Most of the few things we got together in South Africa and on arrival home disappeared last winter to supply us with warmth and nourishment after the change of climate. I have had only two weeks' work since Christmas, and that two with Distress Committee, so that my small pension is absorbed with back rent, etc., on its receipt, and leaves me practically in the same position as before. It is getting with me a case of hope deferred, as I am rapidly degenerating into the ranks of the submerged tenth, if somebody will not give me a helping hand. I have seen Army officers, who told me I should enter the workhouse. Now, Sir, all I want is to see if any reader of JOHN BULL likes to assist me into any sort of work. I shall be glad to do it, even at moderate wages, and any local member can see for himself on enquiry that what I state is correct. I am only too willing to do anything in reason, so as to live respectably, and be a credit to the Service, instead of the outcast appearance I am rapidly assuming through no fault of my own. I had temporary work with the Corporation, from whose engineer I got a testimonial so as to assist me to obtain further work, but all has been in vain. I do not want charity, only work of any sort that would suit a man of my years and training.

P.S.—I am too young to be recognised by the local Veterans' Society.

We have received on behalf of the writer of Human Document XCIV. the sum of one guinea from P. K. (London), which has been remitted.

We have received on behalf of the writer of Human Document XCVI. an organette from N. V. W. (Reading), which has been forwarded.

With reference to the writer of Human Document XCVII. we have to acknowledge the sum of 20s. from C. D. S., which has been remitted.

We have received the following moneys on behalf of the writer of Human Document XCVIII., which have been remitted:—"Phyllis," 5s.; "Sympathiser," 5s.; M. E. A., 2s. 6d.; E. H. O. 1s. 6d.; H. J. A., 10s.; W. A. H., 2s. 6d.; E. B., 5s.; "Holiday," 5s.; W. J. B., 2s.; A. L. R., 5s.; "Lowestoft," 2s.; "Maris," 4s.; P. O. F. 1s.

We have received on behalf of the writer of Human Document XCIX. the following moneys, which have been remitted:—"Merchant Taylor," 10s.; F. W. (Maida Vale), 2s. 6d.; H. B., 2s.; G. K., 25s.; F. Suttle C., 2s. 6d. J. W. A., 25s.; A. H. 1s. 6d.; M. W. 1s.; Sympathiser 2s. 6d.; B. A. 2s.; B. J. 5s.; J. P. 5s.; A. W. H. 10s.; H. F. M. 2s. 6d.; W. and E. F. 2s. 6d.; H. A. N. 2s. 6d.; A Jewess 2s. 6d.; G. B., 1s.

We have received several offers of assistance for Mr. Jas. Rowney, to whose connection with the late Mr. Chas. Bradlaugh we recently referred. Such offers have been duly forwarded, as has also £2 from R. J. and a P. O. for 2s. 6d., sent us by G. S. (Seven Sisters' Road), who knew Mr. Rowney for 12 years as a strenuous and self-sacrificing worker for liberty of conscience and speech.

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the striking discovery in chocolate, result of years of study in blends and make. Side by side with Velma other chocolates taste flat. Velma is delicious, true chocolate, as true as it is fine, as fine as it is true, the greatest achievement in chocolate yet.

Note its advantageous packing and wrapping which secure absolute cleanliness and purity.
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in 5d. 8½d. 1/4½ & 2/8 tins.
The cocoa for pleasure, comfort and strength.

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a genuine Swiss-milk chocolate of unequalled flavour and finish. prices and packets like Velma.

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a chocolate with an exquisite hazelnut flavour prices like Velma.

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SMASHED YOUR PIPE?
If you have broken your pipe—the pipe—the one that is just your weight, bring it along to us. No matter how bad the break, we'll soon put it right again.—A. CHARATO & Co., 3, Craven House, Kingsway, W.C.

UNCLAIMED MILLIONS

"Don't play at making money; if you do, no matter how successful you be, you will never pass mediocrity."—THE LATE RUSSELL SAGE.

MONEY TALKS. If we read the life-histories of American millionaires, we note one curious outstanding fact in all, namely, that the man himself has invariably sprung from obscurity—usually he has started life in a humble way—and by his own unaided efforts reached the top rung of the ladder of success. What are the methods of all the most successful men? They are distinctive for their modernity.

Modern Methods in every walk of business life leave those of yesterday far behind. Science is applied to complex propositions, rendering them simple. The modern financier is as great a departure from the old type as the motor-car of to-day is different from the pioneer car.

Modern Methods of Finance

The modern financier has simplified his methods to such a degree that the ordinary person is apt to be sceptical of the results achieved so easily. With a little capital—not always required, but held at call—he controls relatively large amounts, and his profits are often substantial, sometimes enormous. Yet his risk is comparatively trifling all the time.

The Simplicity of the Terms of the NATIONAL SHARE EXCHANGE

Has Brought Clients

£396,360

in hard cash on speculative investments based on our modern methods, the features of which are minimum outlay, no stamps or fees, unlimited profits, limited liability and immediate cash settlements.

Minimum Outlay.
No Stamps or Fees.
Unlimited Profits.
Limited Liability.
Daily Cash Settlements.

APPLICATION FOR PARTICLUARS.

TO THE SECRETARY, NATIONAL SHARE EXCHANGE,
Great Winchester Street, London, E.C.

Please forward me (as my name is not already on your books) your 40-page and other Lists of Cheques totalling £396,360, which you have paid clients acting on your advice and recommendations, together with a Search Form, so that I can verify any single cheque, or batch of cheques, that I may select. Also particulars of the system of money-making for clients, which is the best modern method.

J.B. 30/7/14

NAME.....
(State Rev., Mr., Mrs., Miss, or Title).

ADDRESS IN FULL .....

.....
(Please write distinctly.)

DATE.....

This and all our advertisements are copyright.

This Prospectus has been filed with the Registrar of Joint Stock Companies.

The Subscription List is now open, and will close on or before Saturday, the 30th day of July, 1910.

SPECIAL FEATURES.

No Preference Shares, no deferred Shares, and no Underwriting Commission—the whole of the profits made by the Company going to the Shareholders.

With the exception of the amount to be paid in connection with the registration and other preliminary expenses of the Company (1) the whole of the money subscribed under this issue will be applied to the purposes of the Company, and (2) no cash profit is made in connection with the promotion and formation of the Company, or the sale of properties or buildings.

NATIONAL CINEMATOGRAPH THEATRES

LIMITED.

Incorporated under the Companies (Consolidation) Act, 1908, whereby the liability of each member is limited to the nominal amount of his shares.

CAPITAL - - - - - £40,000

(Divided into 80,000 of Shares of 10/- each).

Issue of 60,000 Shares of 10/- each at par,

Payable as follows:

1/- per Share on Application;
1/6 per Share on Allotment;
2/6 per Share One Month after Allotment;

And the balance in Calls not exceeding 2/6 per Share, at intervals of not less than one month.

DIRECTORS.

The Right Honourable VISCOUNT MOLESWORTH, Walter's Hall, Monkton Isle of Thanet (Chairman).
Councillor JAMES GRACE, Church Street, St. Helens, Hotel Proprietor.
ALEXANDER HENDERSON, Apollo Theatre, Shaftesbury Avenue, and Walter House, Strand, London, Theatrical Manager and Director of Willesden Green Electric Palace, Limited.
SAMUEL TAYLOR, Oakfield, Acocks Green, Birmingham, Manufacturer of Constructional Iron Work.

BANKERS.

PARR'S BANK LIMITED, 239, Regent Street, London, W., and all other Branches

SOLICITORS.

MORAN & CO., Cromwell House, Surrey Street, Strand, London, W.C.

AUDITORS:

BLAKEMORE & CO., 6, Old Jewry, London, E.C., Chartered Accountants.

SECRETARY AND REGISTERED OFFICE.

W. G. STEPHENS, Walter House, 422, Strand, London, W.C.

PROSPECTUS.

Objects of Company.

This Company has been formed with the primary object of acquiring and working Cinematograph Theatres in various parts of the United Kingdom.

The success with which Cinematograph Theatres have been attended is well known. On the Continent, in America, and in this country, they have an increasing popularity and permanent attraction.

The experience gained in similar enterprises shows that the main elements of success are (1) the positions of the theatres in the selected towns, (2) the nature of the buildings and equipment, (3) the management, and (4) the reasonable capitalisation of the Company. If due attention is given to these matters, investment in a Cinematograph Theatre Company can scarcely fail to be highly remunerative.

Sites and Positions of Theatres.

The sites which it is intended the Company shall, in the first instance, acquire are all in the midst of densely populated districts. They are in main thoroughfares (where, in addition to the population of the immediate neighbourhood, large numbers of people are constantly passing during the day and evening), with existing tramways from surrounding districts. In fact, it is believed the positions cannot well be surpassed. In the places chosen there is either no appreciable competition from similar entertainments, or the population is so large that there is ample scope for the theatres proposed to be erected, and, moreover, it is considered that, having regard to the positions and the nature of the buildings to be erected and the entertainment to be provided no present or future competition need be feared.

The properties in question are situated in the following cities and towns:—

BIRMINGHAM (Aston).—Population of Aston 82,000. Estimated seating capacity of theatre about 700.

BRISTOL.—Population 330,000. Estimated seating capacity of theatre about 750.

EDINBURGH (Leith).—Population of Leith 85,000. Estimated seating capacity of theatre about 500.

HULL.—Population 193,000. Estimated seating capacity of theatre about 900

LONDON (Kilburn).—Seating capacity of theatre about 390.

ST. HELENS.—Population 85,000. Estimated seating capacity of theatre about 600.

STOCKPORT.—Population 79,000. Estimated seating capacity of theatre about 700.

The following Report on the properties has been made by the well-known firm of surveyors and estate agents, Messrs. Farebrother, Ellis & Co.:

29, Fleet Street, London, E.C.
July 20th, 1910.

TO THE DIRECTORS OF NATIONAL CINEMATOGRAPH THEATRES LIMITED.

Gentlemen,—

According to your instructions we have inspected the several plots of land and buildings which have been secured for the purposes of Cinematograph Theatres, and we beg to report:—

That they occupy good positions in localities, where there is generally a want of places of this character, and they comprise seven in all, as follows:—

BIRMINGHAM (Aston).—This comprises a very eligible building site, situated near to the Aston Villa Football Club Grounds, Kynoch's Works and Witton Railway Station. It has a good frontage to the main Witton Road, adjoining the Territorial Army Head-Quarters and the newly-erected Ashton Hotel premises; and the tramcars from central Birmingham run by the property. The situation is an excellent one, being in the midst of a thriving and populous neighbourhood, where great development is going on, and the road is being opened up as a business centre, which is a further advantage to the theatre.

BRISTOL, PARAGON HALL.—This is situated in Old Market Street, connecting Castle Street with West Street, and very near the Electric Tramway Terminus, where there are services through the City connected with the outlying districts of Bristol. Several places of amusement are close by, and if, therefore, the front of the building, which is of an imposing character, was artistically decorated and well lighted by electricity, we believe this property would be a very suitable one for the purposes required.

EDINBURGH (Leith).—This property lies at the corner of Henderson Street and Tolbooth Wynd, overlooks the Inner Harbour, and is within a short distance of the tram routes to Leith, Newhaven, and all parts of Edinburgh. It is an exceedingly well built structure, having an ornamental stone elevation of two stories, arranged as a corner shop, with wide pitch-pine staircase to a showroom above, which is suitable for a tea-lounge. There is a large hall in rear fitted with all necessary accessories, also two shops in Henderson Street which back upon the hall and are necessary for exits therefrom. The premises occupy a prominent corner position in the central and most populous part of the city of Leith; they can be easily and economically altered, and are well adapted for the purpose required.

HULL.—This is an exceptionally good site, one of the best in the city, having a commanding position at the corner of Brook Street and Jameson Street, fronting the main entrance to the principal railway station in Paragon Square, and close to the tram routes and docks. It is well adapted for the erection of an Electric Theatre, being in the centre of the city, and also conveniently reached by the rural population. With the adjoining land, which we understand you have the option of acquiring, it would afford scope for the erection of a larger theatre, which appears to be needed, and when the municipal improvements are completed the value of this site should be enhanced.

KILBURN ELECTRIC PALACE.—Situated in the High Road, at the corner of Greville Road, a prominent position close to the Railway Station, and adjacent to the Kilburn Empire. The property is surrounded by a thickly-populated neighbourhood, and undoubtedly occupies a very fair situation for a place of entertainment of this character, and one which must considerably improve in the near future, when the old shops opposite will, we assume, be removed, and the site covered by modern buildings.

ST. HELENS.—This property lies in a capital position close to the railway station and near to the trams, in one of the chief business thoroughfares, which is much frequented in the evening by the inhabitants. It comprises a block of five modern shops, having a good frontage and depth, with an approach from George Street in the rear. It presents a good site for the erection of the theatre, and a large portion of the premises (which were only built in 1893) could be utilised to great advantage in its construction.

STOCKPORT.—This occupies one of the best positions in the town, lying midway between the Market and the tram terminus, near two places of public amusement, in one of the chief business thoroughfares, and close to the Railway Stations. It has a prominent frontage with return frontages to the side streets, and the portion which may not be required for the theatre will always command tenants, and thus produce a yearly income for the capital expended.

In conclusion, we consider the sites are very well chosen, having regard to the object in view, both from the position they occupy in prominent thoroughfares in populous neighbourhoods largely frequented by all classes, and on account of the facilities they present for the erection of commodious structures.

We are, Gentlemen,
Yours faithfully,
FAREBROTHER, ELLIS & CO.

After the theatres now proposed to be acquired have been opened and actual results have been shown, the Directors may consider the question of putting before the Shareholders proposals for acquiring and building other theatres.

Buildings and Equipment.

The theatres will be substantially and attractively built, and will be equipped and furnished with the latest improvements, every attention being paid to the comfort and convenience of visitors. The buildings will be under the supervision of the under-mentioned architects, viz.:—As to the theatre at Hull, Mr. J. H.

Morton, of Newcastle-on-Tyne; as to the theatre at St. Helens, Messrs. Thos. E Smith & Son, of Bolton; as to the theatre at Stockport, Mr. Peter Peirce, of Stockport; as to the theatres at Birmingham and Bristol, Mr. Victor S. Peal, of Birmingham. The theatres at Edinburgh and Kilburn do not require any considerable alterations.

Management.

This Company is being brought out under the same auspices as the United Electric Theatres Limited. The first theatre which has been opened by that Company, about two months since, has been highly successful, and has been, since it was opened, making large weekly net profits. Other theatres belonging to that Company will be opened during the next few weeks. The experience gained in connection with that and other Companies will be at the disposal of the Directors of this Company, and it is proposed to work the theatres as far as possible in conjunction with those already acquired, as regards the hiring of films, etc., and in this way it is considered it will be possible to obtain a better and more varied supply of films, whilst a considerable saving of expense will be effected. Each of the theatres will be under the control of experienced local managers, and every effort will be made to ensure a thoroughly attractive and varied entertainment.

Capitalisation and Profits.

The Company has been formed with a moderate capital, divided into Shares all of one class, and, taking into consideration the valuable nature of the properties proposed to be acquired, Shareholders may, it is thought, reasonably anticipate an early and large return on their investment.

The following are some recently published reports as to the profits made by Cinematograph Theatres:—

ELECTRIC THEATRES LIMITED.—Dividend last year 40 per cent.

BIOGRAPH THEATRES LIMITED.—Dividend last year 17½ per cent., and theatres built out of profits of Company.

WRISKER BROTHERS.—Net profits of nine small picture halls and cinematograph film business certified by Auditors to be £9,204 per annum.

AMALGAMATED CINEMATOGRAPH THEATRES LIMITED.—Net profits of five theatres acquired by Company certified by Auditors to be £423 15s. 10d. per week, or £22,037 per annum.

The profits to be made by this Company should at least equal those made by the above-mentioned Companies.

It is intended to pay dividends quarterly.

Particulars as to Memorandum and Articles of Association, etc.

The Memorandum of Association, including the names, addresses and description of the signatories and the number of Shares subscribed for by them, is set out in the fold of this Prospectus and forms part of it.

The Articles of Association contain the following provisions:—

The qualification of a Director shall be the holding of not less than 200 Shares of the Company. The remuneration of the Directors shall be at the rate of £100 per annum each, and, as additional remuneration, such sums as shall equal five per cent. of the net profits in each year, to be divided as agreed between them, or in default of agreement equally, and they shall also be paid for travelling and other expenses properly and necessarily expended by them in and about the business of the Company. The Chairman shall receive additional remuneration at the rate of £50 per annum. The Directors may from time to time appoint one or more of their body to be a Managing Director or Managing Directors of the Company, or to hold special office or offices in the Company, either for a fixed term or without limitation as to the term of holding office, and the Directors may fix the remuneration of such Managing Director or Managing Directors, or other Director or Directors holding such special office or offices, either by way of salary or commission or participation in profits or by a combination of two or more of these modes, and such remuneration may be in addition to or in substitution for the remuneration as an ordinary Director or ordinary Directors. The minimum subscription upon which the Directors may proceed to allotment in case of any Shares offered for public subscription shall be ten per cent. of the number of Shares so offered, but this provision shall not apply to any allotment of Shares subsequent to the first allotment of Shares offered to the public for subscription. On a show of hands every member present in person shall have one vote. On a poll every member shall have one vote for each Share of which he is the holder.

The estimated amount of the preliminary expenses under the contract next mentioned is £3,000, which sum will be paid by the Company to the International Electric Theatres Limited, who will thereout pay such expenses. The following contracts have been entered into:—(1) An agreement dated the 21st day of July, 1910, between the International Electric Theatres Limited, of 422 Strand, London, W.C. (who are the Vendors to and Promoters of the Company, and are hereafter referred to as the Vendors) and the Company whereby in consideration of a sum of £3,000 cash to be paid by the Company to the Vendors the latter undertake to pay all the preliminary expenses of the Company. (2) An agreement of the same date made between the same parties whereby in consideration of £10,000 in fully paid Shares of the Company the Vendors sell to the Company the benefit of the agreement for the purchase of the Birmingham property and the benefit of the options of purchase of the St. Helens, Hull, Stockport, Bristol, Edinburgh, and Kilburn properties, with provisions as to completion of buildings and other matters. (3) An agreement dated the 14th day of July, 1910, between the Equitable Development Syndicate, Limited, of Cromwell House, Surrey Street, Strand, London, W.C., and the Vendors whereby in consideration of services rendered by the said Syndicate in connection with the promotion of the Company the Vendors have agreed to allot to the said Syndicate 2,000 fully-paid Preferred Ordinary Shares of £1 each in the Vendors (the International Electric Theatres Limited). The following are the particulars of the contract and options entered into or obtained with reference to the before-mentioned properties. (4) Agreement contained in letter dated the 30th June, 1910, from Messrs. Dalgleish Dobbie and Co., of 28, Charlotte Square, Edinburgh, on behalf of the owner of the property at Leith, to Mr. John Baird, the Vendors' Solicitor, as to lease of that property, with option to purchase the freehold. (5) Agreement contained in letter dated 1st July, 1910, from Messrs. Andrew M. Jackson and Co., of Victoria Chambers, Bowlalley Lane, Hull (Solicitors for the Newington Land Syndicate, Limited, of Hull), to the Vendors as to sale of property at Hull at the price of £7 per square yard. (6) Letter dated 1st July, 1910, from Mr. H. A. Learoyd, of the Town Hall, Hull, to the said Messrs. A. M. Jackson and Co., as to sale of land adjoining the last-mentioned property. (7) Agreement contained in letter dated 4th July, 1910, from Mr. J. A. Collins, of St. Helens, to the Vendors, as to sale of property at St. Helens for £2,500. (8) Agreement contained in letters dated 16th and 18th July, 1910, from the Vendors to Messrs. Bateman Brothers, of St. Petersgate, Stockport, and in letter dated 18th July, 1910, from Messrs. Bateman Brothers to the Vendors, as to sale of property at Stockport for £3,250. (9) Agreement dated the 19th day of July, 1910, made between Ansell's Brewery Limited, of Aston Manor, of the one part and the Vendors of the other part, for sale of land at Birmingham. 10) Agreement contained in the following letters, viz., letter dated 17th June, 1910, from Mr. Austin Fryers, of High Road, Kilburn, London, to The Equitable Development Syndicate Limited, letter dated 20th July, 1910, from the Secretary of Kilburn Electric Palace Limited to the said Mr. Austin Fryers and letter dated 20th July, 1910, from the said Mr. Austin Fryers to the Vendors, such letters referring to purchase of the Kilburn property for £1,100 cash, £1,000 in shares of the Company, and £2,000 in debentures on the Kilburn property only. (11) Agreement contained in a letter dated 15th June, 1910, from Mr. T. Brown, of Bristol, to The Equitable Development Syndicate Limited, giving option of a lease of the Bristol property with option of purchase.

Application for Shares.

Applications for Shares should be made upon the form herewith, and sent with deposit to the Bankers of the Company. If an allotment is not made in full the balance overpaid on application will be applied towards the amount payable on allotment. If no allotment is made the deposit will be returned in full.

Prospectus and Forms of Application may be obtained from the Bankers, Solicitors and Auditors, and at the registered office of the Company (Telephone No. 6338 Gerrard).

The report of Messrs. Farebrother, Ellis & Co., and the above-mentioned contracts and documents or copies of the same and copies of the Memorandum and Articles of Association may be inspected at the offices of the Solicitors and at the registered office of the Company between 11 a.m. and 4 p.m. any day before the closing of the subscription List.

A brokerage of 3d. per Share in respect of all Shares allotted in response to applications bearing brokers' stamps will be paid by the Vendors.

It is proposed to apply for a quotation on the London Stock Exchange in due course.

Dated 22nd day of July, 1910.

No.....

THIS FORM OF APPLICATION MAY BE USED

National Cinematograph Theatres, Ltd.

(Incorporated under the Companies (Consolidation) Act, 1908).

Capital - - - - £40,000.

Divided into 80,000 Shares of 10/0 each.

Issue of 60 000 Shares of 10/0 each at par.

To the Directors of NATIONAL CINEMATOGRAPH THEATRES LIMITED.

GENTLEMEN,—Having paid to your Bankers the sum of ———— being a deposit of 1s. per Share, I hereby request you to allot me———— Shares of Ten Shillings each upon the terms of the Company's Prospectus dated the 22nd day of July 1910, and of its Memorandum and Articles of Association, and I hereby authorise you to place my name upon the register of members in respect of the Shares so allotted, and I agree to accept such Shares, or any smaller number you may allot to me, and to remit the amount payable on allotment, and the balance upon the terms of the Prospectus.

Name (in full) .....
Usual Signature.....
Address .....
.....
Profession or Occupation .....
Date.....

THE DRAMA OF TO-DAY.

By M. CLEMENT SCOTT.

THEATRES AND OPERAS.

The dramatic season is pretty well on the wane, and for the next few weeks most of the theatres will be closed, but in the musical world things have been bobbing about in a most animated fashion, particularly at His Majesty's Theatre, where Mr. Beecham has been inviting us to listen to constant novelties.

Again Covent Garden, notwithstanding the mourning into which the Court and its society is still swathed, has been extraordinarily well filled, and the revival of "Manon Lescaut," which introduced Londoners for the first time in Puccini's opera to the Russian prima donna, Madame Kousnietzoff, as L'Abbé Prévost's unhappy and flighty heroine, resulted in a crowded house.

Madame Kousnietzoff is a most beautiful creature to gaze upon, and her voice is equally attractive, her conception of Manon is therefore ideal, especially as her acting into the bargain is so genuinely sympathetic.

LACK OF NOVELTIES.

With the exception of Laparra's "La Habanera" there has been no novelty in grand opera, for "Lakmé" is anything but new to us. But the revival of Léo Délibes' charming music is a welcome addition to the Covent Garden repertoire, particularly as Luisa Tetrazzini is heard in a role that *vocally* suits her admirably.

MARY GARDEN.

And talking of "Louise" makes me think of Mary Garden's *debut* in this sweetly pretty opera.

"Louise," produced at the Paris Opéra Comique, I think, some ten years ago, instantaneously caught on. Mlle. Marthe Riothon, who had taken top prize at the Conservatoire, then sang the principal character, but, alas, she was only heard in it for a short time, as a greedy man snapped her up and married her, much to the regret of Parisians, as she had a brilliant future before her.

Miss Garden's first appearance occurred in an extraordinary manner. For some time this delightful Irish-American singer had been studying singing with a Mrs. Duff, and amongst the operas she had learnt was Charpentier's masterpiece.

One night, at the Opéra Comique, Miss Garden was sitting in the stalls witnessing a performance of "Louise" when, after the first act, the manager came before the curtain to announce that Mlle. Riothon had suddenly been taken ill, and the opera could not be continued as her understudy had left the theatre.

Mary Garden immediately jumped up and offered to sing the remaining acts. The management joyfully accepted and the artiste was received with wild enthusiasm.

Since then Miss Garden has been one of Paris's favourite singers. Albert Carré, the Director of the Opéra Comique, told me one day that she was one of the few American prima donnas who really made a difference to the box office receipts. "Take her name off the programme and the financial 'drop' is awful," he said.

Mary Garden is now one of the stars that twinkle the brightest, and next spring you will have an opportunity of hearing her at Drury Lane during the Beecham season, when such singers as Melba, Geraldine Farrar—another American—Schumann Heink and the beautiful Cavalieri will also appear

LA CAVALIERI.

Madame Cavalieri is another singer who has had an interesting career. Starting life as a flower seller in the Piza di Spagna in Rome, she was induced by a theatrical manager, who was attracted by her extraordinary beauty, to appear at a *cafe chantant*.

She met with meagre success, though, and then discovered that she had a voice and went to Paris and worked hard for many years. But although La Cavalieri is an artiste of great intelligence, and has scored triumphs in numerous countries, Italy has always refused to recognise in her anything else but the *cafe chantant* singer.

JOHN BULL'S WOMENFOLK.

By Mrs. Bull.

City Women

Whatever may be the popular argument for or against women's work in the world, the problem is slowly and very surely answering itself, as anyone, even the most superficial, can see by one walk through the City, these days. Once enter Fleet Street, go up Ludgate Hill, and penetrate towards the Mansion House, the Stock Exchange, and down Threadneedle Street, even to Broad Street during, say, the lunch or tea hour, and you will see an enormous number of women and girls hurrying to and fro, amongst the crowds of City men, clearly intent on keeping office hours, and wearing the intent but cheerful expression of interested workers. You can easily tell these girls and women from mere shoppers or sight-seers. The country cousin, up for the day, and heavily bedizened, gazes stolidly about her: the shopper intent on bargains is wrinkled, fierce, and truculent. The ordinary Londoner passing through looks rather bored. But the City girls are not at all bored. They are singularly individual looking, and a rather astonishing thing about them is that they are very tastefully and prettily dressed; astonishing, I mean, because it really does mean constant care and effort to look smart, and clean, and dainty, in the atmosphere of the stifling dust and petrol-smoke of that area. But if this sort of thing goes on, if work is being quietly done by—mark the distinction—pretty City women who don't shout or have "causes," the cause is about won. We have no use for Militants any more.

Social Builders.

For it goes deeper than the mere fact of women holding clerkships. Generous men of the older school do say, and say truly, that the invasion of the City by ladies—I use the word in its intrinsic sense—has changed things there quite wonderfully during the last fifteen or twenty years. Drinking or "nipping" by men in town is less and less, owing to the custom of having cafés and tea-shops instead of wine cellars or taps; the personal appearance of men in their offices is now smart instead of slovenly, and their manners are less bearish. The elderly persons who tell us these legends have nothing to gain. It is their honest tribute to us. And it is that sort of thing which makes me so irritated by franchise-seekers who cite Sappho and George Eliot as reasons why we should all be voters, when here we have to hand a far better and far more convincing reason. Simply as builders and makers of social dignity women should indeed be represented by votes. If I were pleading for the franchise I should just point back down history and show how we had been doing that for centuries. But, alas! the very forward van of the movement is in the hands of the deliberate hewers down of all grace and dignity, verbal or personal. My trust is in those bonny City workers in pretty hats and fitting dresses, who have proved themselves men's fellow-workers without rioting about it. They are the real leaders.

Grief in Tags.

May I be allowed to beg some of the coming holiday-makers to make up their minds now, once and for all, as to whether they are in half-mourning or not and to stick to the decision? The rather vague limits to the mourning for the Sovereign this summer has resulted in some quite terrible catastrophes in costume amongst the careless. I saw a pretty girl the other day in pink *ninon* with a large black and white mourning hat which obviously suggested a tin wreath on a tomb-stone; and one is constantly coming across people in greens and blues with, say, a boa or a parasol, still expressive of sable grief. They remind me of the little school-boy who said: "Teacher, Johnny Smith's lost someone at home." "Why, Tommy, he isn't in mourning!" "No, teacher, but his handkerchief is." Anybody may, of course, wear black finishings with any costume, but it is black and white which gives one away as wearing out old half-mourning. Many people not in Court circles are keeping to blacks and whites for the rest of the summer, and others are completely discarding all traces of it, and going in for the particularly gay colours designed for this season. Either course is perfectly correct and decorous, and depends entirely upon individual taste and circumstances. The vulgarity lies in a weak attempt to combine the two.

The Macintosh Beautiful.

One consolation in the midst of this showery summer is the perfection of the new waterproofs. A macintosh need no longer be looked upon as a hideous reproach, since the best waterproofers now show it to us in the form of a long, slim, beautifully fitting coat apparently made of black satin. Such a coat, donned even at a garden party, spoils no one's appearance: in some cases it greatly adds to it. The "satin finish" used for the last year or two in coloured water-tight materials, has now reached such a point of beauty, especially in black, that it is practically impossible to distinguish it from satin. If only the waterproof makers would bring back the vogue of the Capuchin hood with these coats—that is a large, full hood with a wide pleated frill round the face—how we should smile at a shower! Of all hoods this one is most becoming, and in black satin, worn by someone with a clear skin and full hair, the effect would be not unlike poor Marie Antoinette when the Parisians called her "La Papillon."

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AN IDEAL INVESTMENT.

Investment without risk is the ideal which every investor aims at. It is difficult, however, to know where investment begins and speculation leaves off, for all commodities and securities are governed by the law of supply and demand. Is there an investment which is not subject to the varying factors which cause ordinary securities to fluctuate? Yes. There is one security which, despite dear money, bad trade, and the ravages of war, never varies in value. We refer to the Lotisico policies issued by the First Dutch Insurance Company, Ltd., 46, Cannon Street, London, E.C. While the policy is always an investment, it offers great chances of profit without risk. The principle that the Company adopts is to issue policies the numbers of which correspond with the numbers of the tickets in a Netherlands State Lottery. If a Lottery ticket wins a prize the number of the policy corresponding with the ticket also receives the same amount as profit. But the holder of a Lotisico policy is in an immeasurably better position than the holder of a ticket, for supposing the ticket does not draw a prize, it is absolutely valueless, whereas the policy is still worth its face value and continues to be interested in all future drawings, until profits amounting to £1 000 have been paid. While the element of luck enters into the draw it must not, however, be forgotten that the principal of the policy is always intact, and even if no profit is due at the first time of asking, holders need not bewail their temporary disappointment, for policies are allowed to "try and try again." Further the holders are not squeezed out, supposing they experience financial misfortune, for the company is willing to advance up to 75 per cent. of the face value of the policy, and then the holder remains entitled to the amount of the profit that may be drawn. A surrender value is furthermore attached to the policies. Under the circumstances the Lotisico policy is an ideal investment, carrying with it the chances of great gain. The First Dutch Insurance Company, Ltd., has deposited with one of the leading London Joint Stock Banks a sum of £20,000 in securities, so our readers may be assured that if they are fortunate enough to have their modest investment returned a hundred-fold they need not worry about the money being forthcoming at the due date.

A MODERN MIRACLE!

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THE STOLZ ELECTROPHONE,

a new pocket telephone for the deaf, is a remarkably clever electrical invention conceived by a stroke of genius and improved from time to time after exhaustive scientific experiments. Briefly, it is an artificial ear, and enables the deaf to hear with clearness and precision sounds that without its aid would be utterly lost to them. Better still, its regular use actually IMPROVES THE NATURAL HEARING by setting up a species of electrical massage that acts upon the ear drum and the interior parts of the aural system and stimulates the organ into renewed life and activity. Nor does the use of the "Stolz" disfigure the wearer, for it is neat and unobtrusive, and no more conspicuous than eyeglasses. It entirely supersedes the old-fashioned ear-trumpet and similar cumbersome appliances.

Electrophone in use. Less conspicuous than eyeglasses.

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Attendances at the Theatre, the Concert Room, the Lecture Hall, and all public assemblies, become delights instead of penances. Increased efficiency in business and the enhancement of social pleasures are the certain rewards of those who use the "STOLZ."

The Stolz Electrophone is in daily use by thousands of people, all of whom testify that it makes them hear clearly and distinctly.

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IT IMPROVES THE NATURAL HEARING. Give the Stolz Electrophone a trial. Send to any of the addresses given for full particulars of this scientific and practical invention, and put its remarkable merits to a personal test.

At the theatre.

At the table

FREE TRIAL All who can call are cordially invited to do so. The merits of the instrument will be demonstrated to every enquirer without importunity to purchase. If you cannot call, write for further particulars to either of the addresses given below. A fully descriptive booklet will be sent post free.

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BULL'S EYES.

Notes of Interrogation:—
Does the Government "idle-ise" Lord Kitchener?
Won't the "Conciliation" Bill be passed—over?
If the Germans are satisfied with our naval policy, ought we to be?
Won't the suggested Prison Reforms make "time" pass *too* pleasantly?
Is the new Valuation Scheme a mere matter of "*farm*"?
Why not call it "Scot-free-land Yard"?
Do the letters "A.C." stand for "Army Council," or "All Corrupt"?
Doesn't the Accession Declaration affair show true Christian feeling?
Didn't the Yarmouth Corporation find Sunday trading a sell?
Do "strikers" ever remember they may hit their own friends?
Has the Rev. J. G. Lax been so?
Don't they spell it "More-rain" now at Bournemouth?

The Boston college for girls which forbids the wearing of frills, laces, ruffles and fancy dress of all kinds, apparently wants a uniform style of costume.

"Water" is one of the parts in "The Blue Bird." Jim Crow says it should be played with spirit.

"An actor is his own material," says Mr. A. B. Walkley. Yes, and he has to make himself up.

For the first time, Mr. Asquith has received a suffragist deputation. Is this *le premier pas*?

The Clerkenwell magistrate complains that at present the bad boy is helped and the good boy neglected. But we fancy that the bad boy usually helps himself.

"Utterly dejected," was the description of a horse at Willesden. A low-spirited animal.

Smyth-Pigott is described as being very lean. *We* think he is a bit thick.

The Acton man who threw a cake at his wife probably thought she was entitled to take it.

The establishment of a national naval museum is being advocated. What's the matter with the Admiralty?

"You must make allowances for me," remarked counsel in a recent case. Most litigants find that out for themselves.

We presume that the "Jars of Married Life," referred to in a contemporary, contain little "pickles."

"Woman Wins Balloon Race," we read. More gas, no doubt.

"Dogs Which Play With Toys" reads a headline. Toy terriers?

A man charged at Bow Street was said to have become intoxicated by tobacco. He must have had a too-bacchanalian appearance.

"Was Adam a Poet?" asks a recent book. If he did so far forget himself no doubt it was Eve's fault.

"The Thread of Gold" has just been published. We trust the plot is not so thin as the title suggests.

The lady before the Divorce Commission who urged that "wives should be legally entitled to a fixed proportion of their husbands' earnings" is evidently not aware that most wives would lose by it.

"What's Wrong with the World?" enquires G. K. Chesterton. It's all write, so far as he is concerned.

The suggested "Smoke Department" of the L.C.B. is not intended as a crematorium for future reforms.

A boy in a Cheshire school, according to Mr. Runciman, has been "making a model weigh-bridge out of his own head." A dear old lady wants to know "why the poor child wasn't given some of that board of education we hear so much about."

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Please quote this paper in replying.

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MEMBERSHIP.

To become a member of the Coal Club all that is necessary is to send a P.O.O. for 6s. 6d. for one year's postal subscription to JOHN BULL, or a newsagent's certificate that a year's subscription (4s. 4d.) has been paid to him. These certificates can be obtained on application to the Manager, JOHN BULL Coal Club, 21 and 22, Walbrook, London, E.C. (Telephone: London Wall, 6542), or from local newsagents.

Owing to the large number of applications, we have decided not to enrol members after *July 31st.*

CLUB BENEFITS.

1. Uniform quality of coal. The coals will *be only the best obtainable* for their various uses, and will be tested regularly by an expert analyst.

2. The coals will be fresh-wrought and delivered direct from colliery to consumer.

3. A saving of 2s. 6d. to 3s. 6d. per ton (perhaps more) on similar qualities as supplied by the leading merchants.

4. *A fixed price throughout the year* for each quality of coal supplied.

There will be no necessity to take in stocks of coal at "Lowest Summer Prices," involving considerable outlay of capital. Coal loses much of its value by stocking, and also runs to small coal, which is often wasted.

AREA OF DELIVERY.

Free deliveries will be made anywhere in London. Truck loads varying from 6½ to 10 tons will also be sent to any station in England and Wales. Members can arrange their own cartage into cellars, or the Club will undertake delivery. Prices to country stations will be based on the Club's London figures, with increase or decrease according to the railway charge for carriage to the particular station. If the member arranges delivery, a reduction in price will be made on the basis of cost of cartage in London district. If delivery is required in London in half sacks (*i.e.* 1 cwt. bags), a charge of 1s. per ton extra on fixed price will be made.

The Coal Club will deliver free into cellar at following prices within a radius of eight miles from the General Post Office. Deliveries up to a 10-mile radius will be made at the actual increased cost of cartage, for which a quotation will be given on application to the Manager at the Central Office.

Truck loads from 5½ to 10 tons will be sent to country stations.

ORDERING OF COAL.

As it is calculated the Club will be dealing with large quantities of coal, involving heavy clerical work, it is requested that members will give a few days' notice for delivery. This may not be necessary, but, in order to avoid disappointment and to facilitate administration of the Club, will be advisable.

QUALITIES OF COAL.

The Club proposes to supply the following brands:—Best Selected Silkstones (for use in dining-room, drawing-room and bedroom); Best Derby Brights (for general use, but more suitable for dining-rooms, etc., than for kitchener); Best House Nuts (can be used for general purposes, and same remarks apply to this coal as to Derby Brights); Best Kitchen Coal (for use in closed ranges where a fairly large coal is favoured, size 3ins. to 8ins.); Best Kitchen Nuts (for use in closed ranges, size about 2 ins. to 3 ins.).

The Club will have the services of a Manager who has had a long and thorough experience with all classes of coal, and also of an expert analyst who has had vast experience in analysing coals for theoretical and practical purposes, thus insuring absolute satisfaction to members.

ANALYSIS.

The only true way to purchase coal is on analysis—*i.e.*, the knowledge of the component parts of the coal supplied. Any complaints will at once be submitted to the Club's Analyst.

CLUB PRICES.

The Coal Club's *fixed prices* are, as will be seen from the list given below, *less* than the lowest quotations of the principal coal merchants.

PRINCIPAL MERCHANTS' LOWEST SUMMER PRICES.	Per ton.	JOHN BULL'S COAL CLUB'S FIXED PRICES.	Per ton.
Best Silkstone	24/-	Best Silkstone	23/-
Best Derby Brights ..	23/-	Best Derby Brights ..	22/-
Best House Nuts ..	22/-	Best House Nuts ..	21/-
Best Kitchen Cobbles ..	21/-	Best Kitchen Cobbles	20/-
Best Kitchen Nuts ..	20/-	Best Kitchen Nuts ..	19/-

The principal merchants' prices will advance at least 1s. per ton—possibly 2s. per ton—on October 1st, if not before, and are subject to further considerable advances during the winter months.

The Central office of the Coal Club is 21, 22, Walbrook, Cannon Street, E.C.

All communications to be made to the Manager, John Bull Coal Club, 21, 22, Walbrook, E.C. (Telephone, 6542).

FORM OF APPLICATION FOR MEMBERSHIP.

I desire to be enrolled as a member of the "John Bull Coal Club." I enclose postal order value 6s. 6d., being one year's postal subscription to your Journal to be sent to me weekly, post free (or certificate of my Newsagent, from whom I have ordered a copy every week for twelve months). I estimate my requirements of coal to be tons annually. I have usually purchased (fill in quality usually ordered) quality of Coal.

SIGNED _____

ADDRESS _____

_____

DATE _____

Members desiring to subscribe through their newsagents should apply to the Manager of the Club for a form of certificate.

JOHN BULL'S LETTER BAG.

[THE EDITOR replies to, and has a chat with, some of his numerous correspondents.]

NOTICE TO CORRESPONDENTS.—*Will readers, when sending cuttings from newspapers, take care that in each case a sufficient portion is sent to identify the name of the paper and the date of issue?*

CORRESPONDENTS, when referring to previous communications which they may have addressed to us, should always mention the nature of the matter therein referred to. Owing to the great increase in the number of ENQUIRIES *received consequent upon the abnormal growth in our circulation, it is no longer possible to answer them all in "Letter Bag," and* ONLY THOSE OF GENERAL INTEREST *will be noticed. The Editor will, of course, still be grateful for information, "biscuit" material, newspaper cuttings, etc.*

AUTHORS and ARTISTS *submitting MSS and drawings for consideration must write names and addresses upon the back of their work. The Editor cannot accept any responsibility for the safe custody of MSS., etc., so forwarded, but will endeavour to return unaccepted work* WHEN STAMPED, ADDRESSED ENVELOPES ARE SENT FOR THIS PURPOSE. ALL MATTER SUBMITTED MUST BE ORIGINAL UNLESS OTHERWISE STATED.

The EDITOR *cannot express any opinion upon the value of postage stamps, old china, pictures, coins, books, etc.*

CORRESPONDENTS ARE REQUESTED NOT TO SEND ORIGINAL CERTIFICATES, TESTIMONIALS, ETC., *as, though every effort is made for their safe custody, they are liable to be mislaid. Copies only of such documents should be sent in the first instance; if inspection of the originals is required, a request will be forwarded to that effect*

"PEMBURY" (Tunbridge Wells) enquires the value of "Godless florins," circulated about 1849. He has omitted to read the notices at the head of this column.

W. I. (Pendleton).—The usual story is that the original Rothschild obtained early information of the result of the Battle of Waterloo, and speculated accordingly.

H. S. (Nottingham).—We really must draw the line at reprinting alleged jokes from the files of *Punch*. Those in the current issue are bad enough.

H. N. (Teddington) asks: "Do the Jews belong to the Empire, or does the Empire belong to the Jews?" We thought it belonged to Birmingham.

F. P. (Bournemouth) objects to the cant of a member of the sect of Plymouth Brethren for evicting a man who did not pay his rent. But it is not always easy to prescribe the precise amount of philantrophy to be exacted from self-righteous people.

G. I. (Maidenhead).—The West End Jewellery Company (59 and 61, New Oxford Street) is run on the lines of the old watch-chain swindlers.

"HAVE OVE" (Deptford) wants to know why we are always "so down on teetotalers." He plays cards on Sunday night, frequents music-halls, likes to see good fights, backs winners, and is game enough to toss us for two hats. But he happens to be a life abstainer. We are certainly not down on anyone who allows other people to do what they please.

"LESS" (Cleckheaton) wants advice about a paper or magazine to help him to follow the doings of Parliament. As he already reads *John Bull*, it is difficult to advise him.

E. F. T. (Peckham) says that in Scotland marriage legitimises previous issue. Well?

H. A. (Lewes) is a deaf mute pedlar, and objects to missionaries who hawk books for the deaf and dumb without a pedlar's certificate.

G. H. R. (Norfolk) wants protection for English-grown sugar!

T. J. O. (London, S.E.) complains of Buckenham's Employment Bureau (100, Fetter Lane, E.C.).

A. E. D. (Llanelly) thinks that if Tariff Reform had not been made a party question it would have been adopted by both parties long ago.

R. W. (Pagnell).—The fact that a man's pictures fetch big prices does not prove that he is an artist.

C. M. (Forest Hill) wants the names of one or two good debating societies, either in the West End or South of London.

F. K. (Southend-on-Sea) writes to Jim Crow complaining that Jim represents himself as a disreputable sort of man, whereas "that is a palpable lie." He writes to Jim: "I do not care if I come in for some of your slating. I am going to tell you how much I admire you, and am going to assure you that you are doing a grand work in your inimitable way by treating humbug as you can by your withering sarcasm." He is very anxious to know who Crow really is, and we take this opportunity of denying that he is Crosland.

G. H. P. (Muswell Hill) suggests that we should make Lloyd George a peer, as he lost a great number of seats by his speeches. But, unfortunately, we are not the fountain of honour.

T. S. B. (London, S.W.) tells us of a Tariff Reformer who suspected a porter in some flats of being a Free Trader, and accordingly reduced his wages from 20s. to 14s. a week. The porter accordingly pointed to a poster inviting people to "Vote for Tariff Reform and Higher Wages."

"IN SYMPATHY WITH THE GIRL CLERKS" (Sutton) thinks that female clerks in the Post Office are ill-used in not being allowed out alone in the streets after 9 p.m. The dears!

"A STATE CHURCHMAN" (Perth) says that Scotch parsons are educated men, and do not use the Doric in the pulpit.

E. M. (Plymouth) writes in praise of the International College of Music.

J. H. (Essex) says that fish merchants are the "biggest rogues unhanged." They have evidently caught a tartar.

"SUTOR" (Montrose) has devised a scheme for signalling railway trains, but we fear we do not know how to help him to exploit it.

I. G. (Bethnal Green) enquires if the London Telegraph Training College, Ltd., of Earls Court, is a genuine concern.

"INCORRIGIBLE" (Piræus).—No wonder the Greeks laugh at us for spending such an unconscionable long time over our elections. They are as bad as the death bed of Charles II.

REFUS WEBB TOTALISATOR.—C. E. (Edmonton).—We never advise anyone to back horses, but if you will bet, and prefer the Pari-mutuel system, you can rely on fair treatment from this firm. They have advertised for some time in our columns, and our readers have nothing but praise for the way they have been treated by them. See our issue of June 11th.

W. L. says he is a joiner, and that he recently asked for a job at the new hospital at Dr. Barnardo's Home, but was told that no local men would be engaged as they were sending to Rugby for them, where they are 2½d per hour cheaper. W. L. thinks that, "considering the money the people of Essex and London have contributed to the Home, this is a confounded shame." Hear, hear!

E. C. H. (Torquay).—We know nothing of Mr. Radford's Matrimonial Agency—and don't want to!

(Continued on page 198.)

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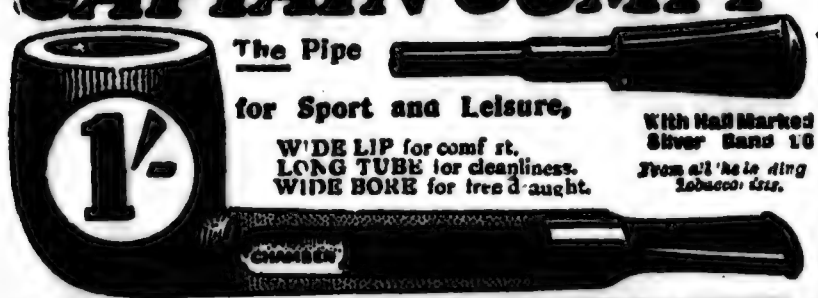

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This Collection comprises one of the most magnificent selections of genuine high-class Modern, Antique, and Oriental Furnishings, Draperies, Carpets, and Works of Art to be seen in London, being the complete equipment of several entire Mansions, any single article out of which may be selected at once and DELIVERED FREE, Town or Country, or Shipped for Abroad, or can REMAIN STORED FREE, PAYMENT WHEN GOODS REQUIRED. 27 COMPLETE BED ROOMS, comprising well-made solid oak bedroom suites, with glass door wardrobes, £3 17s. 6d.; well-made solid walnut bedroom suites, £5 17s. 6d.; unique design, white and other enamelled bedroom suites, £7 15s.; choice Sheraton design ditto, £7 15s.; very elegant Queen Anne design ditto, £12 15s.; two choice solid mahogany bedroom suites with 5ft. 6in. wide wardrobes, £14 10s.; and elegant design solid walnut bedroom suite with 6ft. wide wardrobe, formerly the property of Sir Frederick Wigan, £14 14s.; two costly inlaid and amboyna and satinwood bedroom suites, 22 guineas; choice and unique design real silver ash bedroom suite fitted with electro silver fittings, £25, with bedstead to match; and others of very elaborate description, three having originally cost over 300 guineas each, all of which will be disposed of at equally low prices. Three gentlemen's fine old English wardrobes, from £4 10s., and five fine old English bow-front chests of drawers from 45s. Bedsteads of French, Italian, and Parisian designs, an elegant full-size brass throughout French bedstead, as new, 50s.; several with massive square pillars, also elegant inlaid mahogany, oak, and other twin bedsteads from 20s. DINING-ROOM, LIBRARY, STUDY, and SMOKING-ROOM FURNITURE, comprise, among numerous other important items, choice Queen Anne design sideboard, 5ft. wide, offered at £7 15s.; Queen Anne design overmantel, 55s.; splendid set of Queen Anne design chairs, comprising two carving chairs and six small ditto, £7 15s.; Queen Anne oval extending dining table, 4gs.; the entire being in perfect preservation. Delightfully soft-sprung Chesterfield settee, £3 15s.; two lounge easy chairs to match at 30s. Very beautifully carved oak furniture, comprising large sideboard, £5 15s.; overmantel to match, 50s.; extending dining table, 50s.; two majestic arm chairs and six small ditto, all to match, £8 15s.; this collection is in perfect condition and a magnificent bargain. A superbly soft-sprung Chesterfield settee, 6ft. 6in. long, £4 10s., with two very fine easy chairs to match at 50s. Seven fine quality real TURKEY CARPETS, various sizes, with RUGS to match, scarcely soiled, from £4 10s.; also some real PERSIAN CARPETS and RUGS, equally low; an unusually fine 7ft. Adam's design pedestal sideboard, with pewter-lined wine sarcophagus to match. Very choice antique design pierced gallery fenders with cast claw feet, and some with Morocco leather seats; three fine old grandfather's chiming clocks and other old bracket clocks; fine toned modern pianoforte by George Brinsmead for 12gs., and a magnificent short pocket grand piano of delightful touch and tone, 45gs., originally costing 125gs.; and a capital pianoforte in first-class condition, 5gs. DRAWING-ROOM, comprising some delightfully delicate hand-tufted Aubusson carpets of exquisite design, superb silk draperies, Venetian and other mirrors, valuable signed etchings on silk, costly carved and gilt Louis XV. settees, with fauteuils en suite, and occasional chairs, choice Bergier chairs with footstools, covered brocbe silk and gold embroidery; carved gilt tables and graduated screens, Vernis Martin, Boule, and tortoiseshell inlaid and other cabinets, commodes and escritoires. A magnificently sprung upholstered carved gilt suite, designed and manufactured by Levinski, of Paris, being offered for the ridiculously low price of 25gs.; an exceptionally well-made silk-covered suite, comprising a luxuriously upholstered Chesterfield settee, two large lounge easy chairs to match, with four spring-seated occasional chairs, £9 17s. 6d. the lot; lovely design cabinet, 4ft. 6in. wide, £6 15s.; two dainty centre occasional tables at 35s., and overmantel fitments, 37s. 6d. Very beautiful and rare collection of real Dresden, Sevres, Capo di Monti, and other china figures and groups. Complete sets of fine old English design table glass, from 35s. the set; a quantity of silver and Sheffield plate by Elkington and Rodgers, and canteens containing cutlery by Mappin and Webb, a quantity of table and bed linen, some choice ivory carvings, two iron safes by Milner and Co. and John Tann, rare collection of buffalo and antelope horns, cases of very rare butterflies and beetles, and other natural history specimens; garden, motor garage, and coach-house utensils, and numerous other valuable items of interest, all which full particulars and catalogues may be had on application. Any item may be had separately, delivered free town or country, or held stored free, payment when goods required. The whole is now on view at the

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W. L. (London, W.) enquires after a book called "The Dialogues of Lucia Segia."

"BROADMINDED EARNEST" (Pinner) accuses us of "wobbling" on the question of Tariff Reform, and says that if we go on doing it it will cost us some of our circulation. It did not cost us many votes at South Hackney.

B. B. JUNR. (Forest Gate) is suffering from the persecution mania. He thinks there is a vast conspiracy afoot to exclude his lucubrations from the Press. We should advise him to join it.

C. B. L. (U.S.A.) goes out of her way to explain to us the obvious meaning of the lines on our cover. This is almost asinine in its simplicity.

"JOHN BULL'S WAITER" (Victoria) complains that the competition of foreign waiters has made it necessary for Englishmen to buy their jobs at exorbitant prices.

S. A. M. (Crewe) sends a warning against the New Card Company (Byron House, Fleet Street, E.C.).

G. M. (Islington).—It was certainly superfluous to offer a salary of 5s. a week and state that the man must be an abstainer.

"YORKSHIRE LASS" (Bucks) advertised old clothes in the *Lady*, and sent out parcels for which she could not obtain payment. Why not complain to the Editor?

L. L. J. (Corwen) enquires about Eldridge and Morris (38, Museum Street, W.C.). They are touts for a money-lender, and are noted for their rapacity.

A. L. W. (Bedford) asks what is the shortest distance in which it is possible to stop an express train, say of six coaches, travelling at sixty miles an hour. We will work it out.

W. R. E. D. (Montreal) wants us to keep our eye on Montreal. He says: "The city is filthy, the water too dangerous to touch, horses drop dead in the main streets and are allowed to remain there for five and six hours." No wonder there has been an epidemic of typhoid.

G. W. B. (London, W.) wants to know what happens to fines imposed in police courts. Even magistrates sometimes suffer from thirst.

A. E. L. (Bristol) frankly advocates "subsidising the farmer as a remedy for unemployment." If only it is always put in this way, we shall probably hear less about Protection.

W. F. B. (Devonport) wants electors to be provided with ballot papers inviting their decision for and against the chief questions of the hour, for instance: "Passing of Budget, Tariff Reform, etc." Thus you might vote for a man because you liked his whiskers, and yet vote against all the nonsense he advocates. We see one difficulty. The voter might easily be prejudiced by the form of the question. If you asked him whether he was in favour of taxing food, he would probably say "No," but if you asked him whether he was in favour of Tariff Reform, he might ignorantly say "Yes."

E. P. C. (Nailsworth) asks why the Irish and the Nonconformists and the English Roman Catholics always vote Liberal. The answer is that they don't.

"ROVER-HERE" (Summerland, B.C.) says that in British Columbia you must either be a Baptist or grovel to your employer if you want steady work.

"GEORGIUS CÆSUS" (Camberwell).—We can quite believe that they have an engraving of the "Railway Station" in the reading-rooms of Rowton House. That is the way that the taste of the masses is demoralised.

G. W. W. (Balham) asks whether there is any recorded instance of a foreign nation sending assistance to this country at a time of disaster. He protests against the extravagant subscriptions for the Paris flood victims.

H. D. (N. Nigeria) informs us how it is that people who open rifle ranges always score bulls-eyes. Once upon a time he undertook the arrangements for the opening of a range by a canon of the Church of England. He was 83 years of age, and as shaky as a man with delirium tremens. H. D. fired at a target at close range the day before and scored a bull. The canon was then provided with a blank cartridge. He was terribly nervous, and quite a time pulling off. The muzzle of the gun was wobbling about anywhere but in a line with the bull. A bull, however, was duly declared, and great were the cheers. The poor old chap asked to be allowed to keep the target as proof of his straight eye and steady aim, and his son-in-law was so pleased that drinks were ordered all round at his expense. Now we know all about it!

"BUSINESS MAN AND ANTI-KILL-JOY" (Llanelly).—If flour went down in price when a duty was imposed, it was certainly not in consequence of the duty.

W. W. (Radcliffe) asks the objects of the John Bull League. He had better read the President's Speech.

N. M. T. (New Cross) complains of the Art Supply Company (48, Edgware Road), who are retaining his 7s. 6d.

"A CONSTANT READER" (Merthyr Tydvil).—It is, of course, quite impossible to say what amount of taxation would be imposed on foreign frozen meat or on anything else under Tariff Reform. It would all be a question of bargaining and bribing and consulting important interests.

W. A. L. (Aberdeen).—What a nasty letter you wrote us!

"THORNTON BULLITE" (Adlington) is "desirous of entering West African Service as salesman or anything. If you had said *South* Africa, we might have referred you to Botha.

S. J. J. (Notting Hill Gate).—You tell us you have been charged 1s. 6d. for a pot of tea at Ashton's Restaurant, opposite Paddington Station. Peradventure it was an exceedingly large pot?

"JUSTICE" (Bradford).—Sorry our missionary article did not please you. But what do you mean by saying, "I am not insanely religious myself"? Anybody been saying things about you?

A. J. (Monmouth).—It was hard luck on the promoters of the concert that the report was published before it took place. There is evidently such a thing as being too sharp.

"FOX" (London, S.E.).—Does it much matter what Mr. Chamberlain advocated in those days?

"READER" (Chester) awards us a biscuit for speaking of a man being "haled" before a magistrate. "Reader" should buy a dictionary.

J. H. (Leytonstone).—No biscuits for South Hackney tradespeople. They might not be able to digest them, and then we should lose their votes!

"READER" (Hammersmith) complains of the conditions of work of the girls at Barker's, of Kensington. Many of them, he says, work from 8.30 a.m. till 9.30 or 10 at night, the remuneration for the extra labour being "a meat supper"! Many of them have to work in an underground office. What says our ex-hon. friend, Sir John?

L. B. S. (Highbury).—Major Lafone, the new Chief Constable for the North Metropolitan division, began work under the Chief Constable of Kent in 1904, and in 1907 was appointed Deputy Chief Constable of that county. He had previously been employed by the Colonial Office in the raising of the South African Constabulary—and he did *not* "escape from Pretoria with Mr. Churchill." You see how careful one should be in making statements.

MISS L. S. (Newcastle) seeks to enlighten our ignorance about a society called "The Islanders," which may well be ignored.

H. R. (Victoria-Street) quarrels with the system of seniority in the Post Office.

W. A. (Hanwell) complains of the teeth supplied by the Artificial Teeth Aid Society.

A. B. (Palmer's Green).—There are already too many proposals for memorials to King Edward. The best is: *Circumspice!*

A. E. S. (Leytonstone).—Why shouldn't a man dream in French. We sometimes do it in Yiddish.

"BISHOP OF LITTLE ILFORD" says St. Augustine belonged to *the* Church, and that it was only divided into Roman and English Catholics at the Reformation. But did "*the* Church" authorize the Reformation?

J. L. K. (Clapham) wrote an unaccepted novel showing what would happen if women ruled. We remember a very funny French play, called *Le Royaume des Femmes*, which developed that notion.

"OLD READERS" (Oxford) are two ladies of 30, who want to set up a lodging or boarding-house in some new, rising place. They have very little capital, and ask our advice. It may be summed up in one word: Don't.

W. R. R. (Leytonstone) says it would be more expensive in the long run to provide inferior clothes at the Orphan School, Haverstock Hill.

"A PORTSMOUTH READER."—We agree that "it would be a rum boxing match without 'striking scenes.'" When did that strike you?

W. A. O. (East Ham) paid 2s. 6d. registration fee to Collins & Collins (42, Essex-street, Strand), but if they did not guarantee a job he has no remedy.

"ANOTHER VICTIM" (Andover) wants concerted action against William Farrer, the system-man, of Glasgow and Amsterdam.

G. W. T. (Ontario) says his father refused to send us out there, and that we must have trod on the old gentlemean's corns.

(We regret we are obliged to hold over a large number of replies.)

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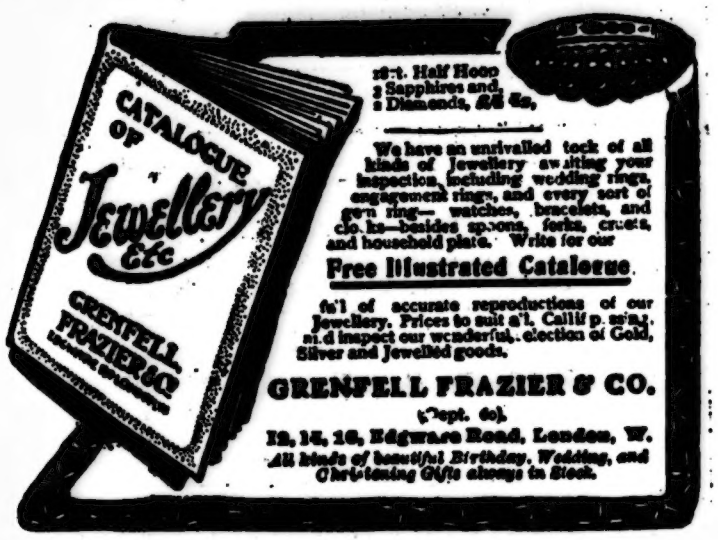

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CAN RACING BE MADE TO PAY?

Thousands of good sportsmen in every part of the Universe daily indulge in the fascinating pursuits of turf speculation, but how many of them can look back upon a record of consistent and unbroken success? Everyone occasionally finds a winner, but in the majority of cases a retrospect of the season's records reveals a deplorable deficit in the balance sheet. Yet it is quite within the limits of possibility to make racing pay, and hundreds of loyal followers of the sport of kings can testify to the sensational success of Gale's Tattersall Ring Wires during the present season.

Mr. B. T. Gale, the doyen of Racing Advisers, with his 40 years' experience of the turf, controls the wire department and is the Editor-in-Chief of "THE SPECIAL THAT PAYS." He is regarded by a whole army of sportsmen as a magician among the prophets, and the spontaneous messages of congratulation that arrive by every post are in themselves sufficient proof of his consistency, his reliability, and his popularity.

During the past few weeks the following selections have been sent out on Tattersall's Ring Wires:—

Saturday, June 11th—
SCOTCH DUKE, 4 to 1 agst. Won.
Tuesday, June 14th—
CHARLES O'MALLEY, 9 to 4 agst. .. .. .. Won.
Wednesday, June 15th—
RIGHT RIDER, 6 to 4 agst. Won.
Thursday, June 16th—
BAYARDO, 7 to 4 agst... Won.
Friday, June 17th—
Mirador .. .. .. Second.
Saturday, June 18th—
ST. MAC, 8 to 1 agst. .. Won.
Tuesday, June 21st—
QUEEN TII, 9 to 4 agst. Won.
Wednesday, June 22nd—
MERCUTIO, 6 to 1 agst. Won.
Thursday, June 23rd—
Golden Vessel .. .. Second.
Friday, June 24th—
LITTLE FLUTTER, 5 to 2 agst. .. .. Won.
Saturday, June 25th—
Burnt Almond, ... Lost.
Tuesday, June 28th—
SIMON MELTON, 9 to 2 agst. .. .. Won.
Wednesday, June 29th—
RED CAPE, 5 to 4 agst. .. .. Won.
Thursday, June 30th—
BETSY JANE, 5 to 1 agst. .. .. Won.
Friday, July 1st—
VIGILANCE, 11 to 4 agst. .. .. Won.
Saturday, July 2nd—
PEGGY HYLAND, 11 to 8 agst. .. .. Won.
Monday, July 4th—
Election, 13 to 8 agst. .. .. Third.
Tuesday, July 5th—
SUNSHINE, 3 to 1 agst. .. .. Won.
Wednesday, July 6th—
SIMON MELTON, 9 to 2 agst. .. .. Won.
Thursday, July 7th—
FOX COVERT, 9 to 2 agst. .. .. Won.
Friday, July 8th—
SEIRDON SQUIRE, 5 to 4 agst. .. .. Won.
Saturday, July 9th—
MACEDOINE, 100 to 15 agst. .. .. Won.
Tuesday, July 12th—
Nerestan .. .. Third.
Wednesday, July 13th—
KIEL, 2 to 1 agst. .. .. Won.
Thursday, July 14th—
ROMEO, 5 to 2 agst. .. .. Won.
Friday, July 15th—
LEMBERG, 5 to 4 agst. .. .. Won. (Dead heat).
Saturday, July 16th—
BLACKSTONE, 6 to 4 agst. .. .. Won.

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RACING NOTES.

By W. Lotinga.

("*Larry Lynx*" *of* The People, "*Double U. L.*," *of* Lotinga's Weekly, *and* "*Maggie*" *of* The Globe.)

Barry's boats.

Barry, now in South Africa, has taken with him four boats—the "Queen Alexandra" and the "Queen Mary," built by Sims, and the "Lady Desborough," the work of Chas. Phelps, being pretty certain to use either the "Queen Alexandra" or the "Lady Desborough," as the other is an extremely light craft. His fourth boat is a new double sculler, built by Clasper, and named "Zambesi."

Quite a bloodstock registry.

My latest orders to select horses for racing abroad come from Demerara (British Guiana), Kadur (Southern India), and Bloemfontein, in the Orange River Colony—truly far enough apart, but evidence of how this paper is circulated abroad and how readers have confidence in my judgment. One correspondent has sent a signed blank cheque.

Prophetic.

What has happened in the earlier stages must influence the concluding Goodwood results, when, if herself again, Persephone would win the Rous Memorial and Ben-a-Bahn the Drayton Handicap to-day (Thursday), whilst it is quite Hayden's turn to be first instead of second, and the little horse's chance undoubtedly comes in the Chesterfield Cup. So, too, should Louviony win at last in the Chichester Plate, and, if he misses this, Brighton might afford recompense. In Sporty, Mr. S. Joel has a useful two-year-old who may carry his colours in front this week, or in the near future, whilst at Alexandra Park, Sea Trip, not too well handicapped at first sight, might win the Alexandra Welter, for he was very unlucky at Sandown. On the same day, in the overnight Mile Selling Plate, the much-abused little Westdean runs, probably ridden by Wootton, and as I am convinced he is better on a round course, what beats him will about win, and there can hardly be another Angelus in such a paltry stake. It is possible, however, that the horse may wait for or even run again at Sandown on Monday, when these remarks apply. Although taken to Hurst Park, Throne and Country did not oppose Forerunner II., being reserved to try and win for the Bank holiday crowd on Monday, when he will be ridden by Wootton, or, if he is claimed, by Fox. Both know the horse, who will assuredly go close for the appropriately named Lubbock Handicap. How he and Westdean run must govern their respective chances in their Brighton engagements.

SANDOWN PARK.

AUGUST BANK HOLIDAY MEETING.
MONDAY, AUGUST 1st.

SEVEN RACES.
ADMISSION TO THE PARK
ONE SHILLING.
First Race at 1.30 p.m.

Band of the Scots Guards will be present. Sandown Park can be reached by train from Waterloo Station or by tram from Shepherd's Bush to Kingston Bridge and from there to Thames Ditton, or from Tooting, via Kingston, to Thames Ditton; thence it is only about a twenty minutes' pleasant walk.

Return Train Fares from Waterloo Station:—

1st CLASS.	2nd CLASS.	3rd CLASS.
4/-	3/-	2/-

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Estab. 1900. Praised by Larry Lynx of "People." "John Bull," "Sporting Life," etc. "The Racing World" says: "A remarkable run of big successes for years past." Next Monday's Great Issue will give as usual

FOUR BIG INSPIRED GEMS.

Races quite at their mercy. ALL FOUR WILL WIN. Don't miss. Post Sequick. Last week's issue THREE WON and one ran SECOND. Hard lines as many were on the "Accumulator." However ALL "FOUR" WILL "ROMP HOME" NEXT WEEK. Our "One-Horse" occasional wires going as Strong as ever. £1 pays for "five." Results of last "five": Gelli-ni 11-4 won. Double Thrush 6-1 won, Macedoine 100 15 won, Wolfe Land 10-1 won. Clients show wires and post Monday's specials to friends.
87, High Road, Turnham Green, London.

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PICCADILLY HOUSE, SACKVILLE STREET, LONDON, W.
Telephone: 890 Mayfair (3 lines). Telegrams: "Repayable, London."

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TOTALISATOR,
MIDDELBURG, HOLLAND.
JUST A FEW Rufus Webb prices for week ending July 16th: Meadow Chat 27/1, Newcastle II. 14/1, Kell 3/1, Nun Appleton 62/2, Macedoine 8/1, Cuffs 29/2.
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The following claims have been received for the issues of June 11th and 18th:—

GEOFFREY BOULTON, 52, Biggin Street, Dover. (No. 360,593.—June 11th.)

G. E. JOWETT, 12, Garnier Street, Fratton, Portsmouth. (No. 106,618.—June 18th.)

Z. W. SPINNER, 209, High Street, Walthamstow. (No. 87,879.—June 18th.)

W. DALE, 7, Snargate Street, Dover. (No. 165,182.—June 18th.)

W. E. BALLARD, Bromsgrove, Faringdon, Berks. (No. 178,481.—June 18th.)

The following are the fifty numbers for our issue of July 2nd:—

4724	105059	227604	310031	426980
5900	117590	230155	319075	430464
20453	146497	240582	321313	439363
23006	153658	256457	325244	445580
24164	153826	271065	341774	479097
36881	187181	280973	371097	489971
47587	190074	291078	377193	495864
57927	199163	298033	402382	499987
81407	212654	305279	415244	500102
94131	221218	308358	421774	500345

INITIAL NOUGHTS SHOULD BE DISREGARDED, BUT FINAL ONES ARE, OF COURSE, RECKONED.

THE FIFTY NUMBERS IN RESPECT OF THIS WEEK WILL BE ANNOUNCED IN OUR ISSUE DATED AUGUST 27TH (PUBLISHED AUGUST 25TH).

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For meaning of this No. see Page iii. of cover.
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